# **Top** 10 Ways to Make Schools Safer for LGTBQ Students

## La Semana del Nino
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# 1. LEARN THE FACTS

Adolescence is challenging, even under the best circumstances.
What can we do to support our LGBTQ students as they discover who they are?

# 2. USE YOUR WORDS

- Words can heal; or if chosen in haste or ignorance, they can wound. But the right words at the right time foster an atmosphere of respect and understanding, and go a long way toward letting a person who is nervous or apprehensive know that you understand and care.

# 3. STOP BAD BEHAVIOR

How can we protect our LGBTQ students
and create safe schools for all?

# 4. PARTNER UP FOR POLICY

Designed and implemented correctly, a strong and inclusive policy protects students and the school alike.

# 5. GET INVOLVED

Plan school wide activities. It's important that a school's commitment to a diverse and safe school population is visible.

# 6. HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Talk to you students about healthy relationships and boundaries. Help your student discover the differences between the various types of relationships they already have.
- friends - sports and activities - dating

# 7. POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH



- Protecting and Encouraging positive mental health for LGBTQ youth in school and at home

- Understanding substance abuse - the  risk  to LGBTQ students

# 8. COLLEGE & CAREER
## (BE FUTURE READY)

- Identity development

- Families, Friends, Support

- Long term interpersonal relationships

- Careers

# 9. ACCESS TO SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

- Staying together

- Homelessness

- Disowned

- Disconnected

- Lack of Support

# 10. SUPPORT INCLUSION

Intimidation and discrimination don't have to be the norm. How can we promote change and understanding?

"We need to give each other the space to grow, to be ourselves, to exercise our diversity. We need to give each other space so that we may both give and receive such beautiful things as ideas, openness, dignity, joy, healing, and inclusion."

–Max de Pree