

# GSA Support Sheet

## 10 Steps to Create a GSA

**1** Follow the school guidelines for starting a club.

**2** Find a faculty advisor.



**3** Inform school guidance counselors and social workers.

**4** Designate a reliable meeting place and time.



**5** Creatively advertise the club.



**6** Cultivate member interest.



**7** Host the first GSA meeting.



**8** Establish a GSA Constitution and By-Laws.



**9** Create your group norms, expectations, culture.

**10** Plan ahead by creating goals, calendar, action plan.

### GSA Fact

“Students in schools with GSAs are less likely to hear homophobic remarks in school on a daily basis than students in schools without a GSA.” -American Journal of Education

### GSA Fact

“LGBT students in schools with GSAs are less likely to miss school because they feel unsafe compared to LGBT students in schools without GSAs.” -GLSEN

### GSA Fact

“Research has shown GSAs are effective for creating a more positive school culture and climate for all students.” -GLSEN

### GSA Tip

A GSA can be structured to focus on support, social connections, advocacy, or a combination of the three. Decide what your GSA will focus on during your first meeting! Go to [gsanetwork.org](http://gsanetwork.org) to learn more.

## Critical GSA Resources

### GLSEN

[glsen.org/gsa](http://glsen.org/gsa)

- Educational organization focused on ensuring safe and affirming schools
- Guidelines for effective GSA management, recruitment, and fundraising
- Exciting ideas for events and GSA curriculum ideas/activities

### GSA Network

[gsanetwork.org](http://gsanetwork.org)

- LGBTQ and allied youth organization to create safe schools
- Resources designed to help develop, manage, and expand a GSA
- Training and events for youth and adults to develop LGBTQ competence

### Teaching Tolerance

[tolerance.org](http://tolerance.org)

- Anti-bias curriculum focused on identity, diversity, justice, and action
- Lesson plans, teaching strategies, and texts surrounding social justice
- Professional development for leadership and school/community culture

### Lambda Legal

[lambdalegal.org](http://lambdalegal.org)

- Legal organization focused on impact litigation, education, and policy
- Laws, policies, and protections related to student and GSA rights