LGBTQ Student Leaders are Changing Their World, and are Better Off for it

LGBTQ students are leaders in social and political organizing, including leading GSA clubs in thousands of schools across the country.

80.2% of LGBTQ students have advocated for social or political change in the past year, such as:
- Expressing political or social views on social media (67.9%)
- Participating in GLSEN's Day of Silence, Ally Week, or No Name-Calling Week (32.0%)
- Participating in an event involving politics (36.3%)
- Contacting politicians or government officials about an issue (19.2%)

91.0% of LGBTQ students involved in a GSA advocated for social or political issues, compared to just 74.7% of LGBTQ youth not involved in a GSA.

More than half (53.3%) of LGBTQ students have a GSA at their school.

Of LGBTQ students with a GSA, most (63.7%) participate, and 22.2% are club leaders.

GSAs and other leadership opportunities for LGBTQ youth help ensure LGBTQ students are included and visible throughout school life, while also fostering youth development and improving school climate.

Research shows that LGBTQ students in schools with a GSA face less harassment and have better mental health and academic outcomes, including:
- Almost twice as likely to describe their classmates were accepting (54.7% vs. 28.3%)
- Less likely to feel unsafe in school (51.7% vs. 67.3%)
- Less likely to miss school because of safety concerns (28.7% vs. 41.8%)
- Higher self-esteem and lower levels of depression

Together, we can make our schools safe and inclusive for LGBTQ youth. Here's how you can help:

Support student-led GSAs
glsen.org/gsa

Champion student-led school programming
glsen.org/daysofaction

Be an ally to LGBTQ youth
glsen.org/ally

Data from the 2017 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Youth in Our Nation's Schools.
Learn more at glsen.org/nscs