

LGBTQ+

Students often face unique forms of harassment and discrimination, significantly impacted their academic and social experiences. Despite progress in societal attitudes, these students continue to face challenges such as exclusion, verbal and physical abuse, & microaggressions. This presentation aims to shed light on the challenges faced and how we could make a more inclusive & supportive environment for all students.

Academic Performances:

Research has shown that experiencing harassment and discrimination in classrooms can lead to negative emotional and psychological effects such as depression, low self-esteem, and trauma. This, in turn, can affect academic performance by reducing motivation, increasing absenteeism, and lowering overall engagement in school activities. Additionally, a negative campus climate has been linked to higher dropout rates, lower college satisfaction, and poorer emotional adjustment.

LGBTQ+ college students often face significant discrimination and harassment that can severely impact their mental health, academic performance, and overall well-being. These negative experiences are often rooted in societal stigma and can be exacerbated by local community attitudes and social norms. Bias-based bullying (whether in person or online) creates an unsafe and unwelcoming environment for LGBTQ+ students, leading to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation.

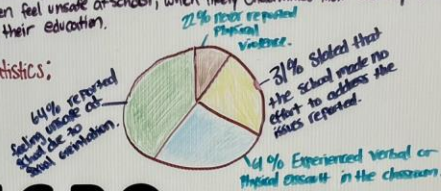
LGBTQ!

LGBTQ+ College Students Experiences

Discrimination + Harassment

Bullying - Bullying is consistently linked to internal issues such as depression, suicidal thoughts, and attempts among LGBTQ+ youth. National data indicates that lesbian, gay, and queer youth who endure bullying are five to six times more likely to attempt suicide compared to those who are not bullied. Furthermore, bullying correlates with poor academic performance, including higher absenteeism, disengagement, and lower grade and test scores. LGBTQ+ youth targeted by bullying often feel unsafe at school, which likely undermines their ability to fully participate in their education.

Bullying Statistics:



MICROAGGRESSION.

Microaggression in the Classroom: Microaggressions are the everyday encounters of subtle discrimination that people of various marginalized groups experience throughout their lives. Some microaggressions are unconscious (i.e., the perpetrator doesn't even know they did something) while some microaggressions may be unintentional (i.e., the perpetrator may be aware of their actions but may not realize the negative impact they may have on people).

Examples:

- Endorsement of heteronormative culture and behaviors.
- Assumption of universal LGBTQ+ experience.
- Discomfort or dismissal of LGBTQ+ experience.
- Assumption of sexual pathology or abnormality.
- Denial of bodily privacy.

HELP.

- Educate yourself and others
 - Learn about LGBTQ+ identities, issues, and terminology.
- Be an Ally
 - Support LGBTQ+ students by advocating for their needs & rights. Attend LGBTQ+ events and use supportive symbols in your classrooms.
- Create an Inclusive Curriculum
 - Incorporate diverse perspectives and experiences into lessons.
 - Use inclusive language & examples.
- Reflect and Learn
 - Reflect on your own behavior and biases.
 - Seek feedback & be open to changes.
- Encourage open dialogue
 - Create a safe space for students to voice their concerns.
 - Encourage respectful conversations about diversity and inclusion.
- Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSAs)
 - Establish GSAs to provide safe spaces and support for LGBTQ+ students.
- Professional Development:
 - Offer training for educators on inclusivity and how to support LGBTQ+ students.
- Safe Spaces:
 - Identify and designate safe spaces within the school where LGBTQ+ students can feel safe.
- Counseling Services:
 - Provide access to counseling services that are knowledgeable about LGBTQ+ issues.
- Inclusive Curriculum:
 - Incorporate LGBTQ+ inclusive themes into the curriculum to promote understanding and acceptance.