

# How Can Teachers Be Allies?

## *Educate Yourself*

In order to act as allies for LGBTQ students, teachers need to be educated about the problem of anti-LGBTQ bias and harassment. Professional development trainings and speaking one on one with students is a great place to start!

## *Intervene When Harassment Occurs*

Many teachers are allies in spirit, but are unsure of what to do if they see or hear harassment and bullying occur. If you hear hurtful language or name-calling in the classroom or hallway, always speak up! Students will know which teachers are their allies when they see actions put behind words.

## *Adopt Gender-Neutral Language*

Using gender-neutral language is one of the simplest, most proactive ways that teachers can “come out” as allies to LGBTQ students. For example, when splitting up a classroom or lining up to leave, arranging students by traits other than gender or sex is a great way to be an ally. This is just one of many examples!

## *Create Safe Space/Zones*

Show that your classroom is a safe space! Hanging flags, using pronouns next to your name on the board, and being open to conversations around LGBTQ issues are just a few ways to create a space where all students feel welcome. Involve students in creating their environment, so everyone feels they have a stake in making sure it feels safe.