

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.



Questions about this resource?
Email GSAs@iowasafeschools.org

