GLBT Youth in Education

EDUC 501
Team Advocacy Project
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1967 The Student Homophile League at Columbia University is the first lesbian and gay campus group to gain official recognition.

1990 GLSTN founded - Gay and Lesbian Independent School Teachers Network. Only 2 known high school GSA’s (Gay Straight Alliance) at this time.

1992 Ball State University program called SAFE On Campus (Staff, Administration, and Faculty for Equality On Campus) was implemented during the 1992-1993 academic year by the Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Student Association.
1995 GLSTN became a national organization and hired first full time employee Kevin Jennings, author of *Mama’s Boy, Preacher’s Son*.

1996 Kelli Peterson founds a Gay Straight Alliance at East High School in Salt Lake City, Utah. The city school board bans all “non-curricular” student clubs in order to keep the group from meeting.

1996 Federal appeals court issues the first judicial opinion in US history finding that a public school could be held constitutionally accountable for not stopping antigay abuse.
1997 GLSTN stages their first national conference in Salt Lake City, Utah in response to state legislature’s move to ban all student groups.

1997 GLSTN changed to GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network) to broaden support.

1998 On Oct. 7th, University of Wyoming student and gay youth, Matt Shepard is brutally beaten and left for dead. He died 5 days later.
• **2010 Sep-Oct** Five gay teenagers commit suicide in the span of 3 weeks triggering a national response.

• **2010** National Wear Purple Day (Oct 20) is created by teenager Brittany McMillan to support LGBT youth and raise awareness of anti LGBT bullying.

• **2010** Ellen Degeneres, President Obama, and other prominent figures speak out against LGBT bullying and discrimination.
Current Issues

In a recent study reported by ABC News:

- 9 out of 10 gay youth report facing harassment.
- Gay youth are 4x more likely than straight youth to commit suicide.

To date, GLSEN has registered more than 4,000 GSA’s

Oct 20, 2010 National Wear Purple Day

Nov 20, 2010 GLSEN launches PSA campaign for safe space training

A number of college and universities have implemented educational interventions with names such as Safe Zone, Safe Space, Safe Harbor, and Safe On Campus. The hallmark of these "Safe" programs is the public identification of allies by placing a "Safe" symbol, usually incorporating a pink triangle or rainbow, on office doors or within living spaces.

HOWEVER,

Serious lack of support for GLBT youth within education.

Homophobia, hatred, and discrimination are still present in society and our education system.
So What?

Implications

What is the impact?

• Social, political, ethical/moral, equity, education

What are the needs?

• More support for GLBT youth/safe space
• Training for faculty and staff
• Awareness of the issues
• Inclusion of GLBT history and story in education
Now What?

GSA Service Learning

- Kent Phoenix Academy GSA
- Core Values Activity and Discussion
- Tie to school’s bullying initiative
Now What?
Action and Resources

Get Educated

- GLSEN/safe space training  www.glSEN.org
- GLAAD  www.glaad.org
- GSA for safe schools  www.gsaforsafeschools.org
- LAMBDA  www.lambda.org

Give Support

- Dan Savage- It Gets Better Project  www.itgetsbetterproject.com

Tell the story

- Clip from *Out of the Past*