



**Cultivating Respect:
Stopping Bullying to Create Safer Schools**

Background:

Once considered to be a common rite of passage, the effects of bullying and harassment have been devastating for young people who identify as LGBTQ+ (and those who are perceived to be) in the US. For years, news reports have been filled with tragic stories of LGBTQ+ youth who have died by suicide after experiencing bullying and harassment from their peers. Research shows that many others have experienced lower student achievement, attendance, and self-esteem as a result of an unwelcoming school environment.

This learning session provides participants the tools they need to make the case for inclusive anti-bullying policies, support LGBTQ+ youth who are being bullied, and take action when the system fails to protect students. Through illustrative stories as well as research and data, this session is a great way to engage any parent (or individual that knows and cares about a school-aged young person) in a conversation about creating change for any student who has ever felt bullied, harassed, or excluded.

Learning Session Outline:

- Learn about the paramount importance of having comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying policies that expand our understanding of bullying and harassment beyond the classroom
- Review recent examples of bullying and harassment in US schools to illustrate the profound impact anti-LGBTQ+ bias can have on young people
- Offer key facts and related data about bullying and harassment that provide participants the context they need to discuss these issues with educators and school personnel
- Discuss the ways to start cultivating respect at home, in schools, and at the district level
- Understand local and state laws, related to bullying and harassment in schools, and information about how to get involved locally in safe schools efforts

Recommended Session Length:	90 minutes (in-person), 60 minutes (online)
Target Audience:	General audience, no experience with LGBTQ+ issues required
Participant Materials:	<i>Cultivating Respect: Safe Schools for ALL</i> , online resource page
Additional Information:	<p>The state laws featured in this learning session can be customized based on the location of the company hosting the event.</p> <p>This session is often effective in growing relationships with other network groups and engaging new and potential allies that have not participated in LGBTQ+ specific events in the past.</p>

For more information on this session, contact Mackenzie Harte (they/them), Learning & Inclusion Coordinator, by e-mailing maharte@pflag.org or calling (202) 467-5411.