Published on *Gay-Straight Alliance Network* (http://gsanetwork.org)

Change Your School

Your GSA is a powerful tool that can change your school. Once you've started your GSA and it's running smoothly, you are ready to start creating changes that will leave a positive impact on your school for generations to come.

In this section, you'll learn about everything from simple actions you can take that make schools safer to planning larger days of action that build awareness at school to launching campaigns that transform your school for the long-term.

Evaluate & Take Action

Start by learning the basics of Developing a Strategy [1], using a Strategy Chart [1], and Planning Events [2]. Then read about tons of specific actions and events your GSA club can do in the GSA Actions & Events [3] section. Some of the highest impact actions you can take are:

- Fill out the Building a Safe School Checklist to see how LGBTQ-friendly your school's policies, staff and students are [4]
- Conduct a School Survey [5]
- Peer Education Workshops [6] [5]
- Make Your School a Hate-Free Zone [7]

Or, plan a Day of Action, a large-scale event that is designed to make a visible impact on your school or community.

- GLBT History Month [8] in October
- Transgender Day of Remembrance [9] in November
- Day of Silence [10] in April
- Harvey Milk Day [11] in May

Launch a Campaign

Learn how to tackle a big problem at your school and win positive results that transform the school for the long-term. GSA Network has developed five different campaigns based on more than a decade of student activists' experiences. Each campaign includes a campaign guide and/or tool kit to help you develop your winning plan. Contact a program coordinator [12] in your region to get support and training on specific campaigns.

GSA Network's 5 Campaigns

Make It Real [13]

California law prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. But many schools remain unsafe. It's not enough to have the law on the books. Learn how to Make It Real. Transform your school to be safe for LGBTQ students, students with LGBTQ parents, and students perceived as LGBTQ. Launch a Make It Real Campaign to make sure teachers stop harassment on campus. Through student action, you can ensure administrators follow through on complaints of discrimination.

Take It Back: Anti-Slur Campaign [14]

Many students hear slurs everyday on campus, but don't know how to combat them. Or students at your school may not understand the damage slurs can do. Learn how to take action as students to put a stop to slurs and name-calling on campus. Fight back against bullying and slurs based on sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and more.

Beyond the Binary [15]

Make your school safe for transgender and gender non-conforming youth. Get the tools to help your GSA raise awareness regarding gender identity and expression. Learn how to educate students and staff about gender non-conformity and transgender issues. Fight for policies at your school that provide strong protections for transgender and gender non-conforming youth. Challenge the gender binary system in schools!

LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum [16]

Fight for LGBTQ issues and LGBTQ people to be included in the curriculum you learn at school. Find out how to personally contribute in your classes through your class assignments and presentations. Get ready to educate your teachers and provide them with lesson plans and assignments that meet the CA state standards. Prepare to convince teachers and administrators to incorporate LGBTQ topics into the curriculum and implement district-wide changes to

curriculum standards.

LGBTQ Visibility & Awareness [17]

Take the first step to creating a safer school climate for LGBTQ students and straight allies. Help raise awareness of LGBTQ issues and gain visibility on your campus, so that LGBTQ youth, teachers, and staff will begin to feel safer to come out on campus.

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