



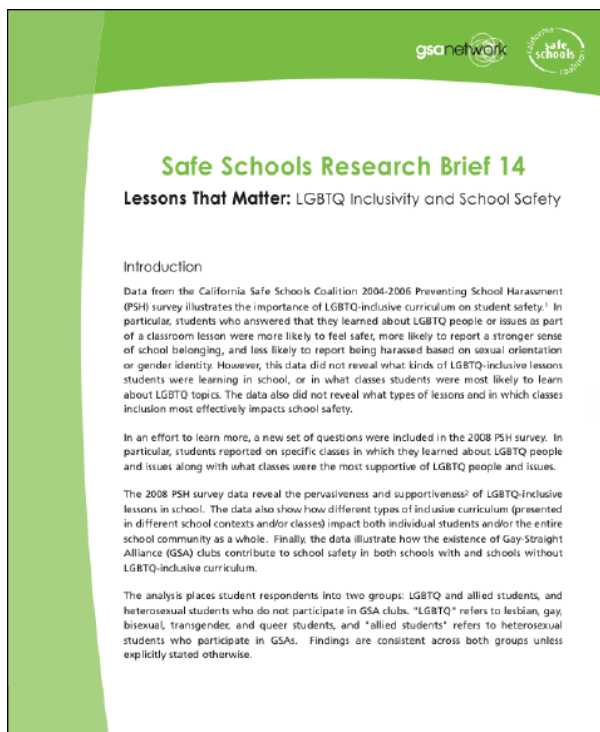
Published on *Genders & Sexualities Alliance Network* (<https://gsanetwork.org>)

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## Announcing New Research: Lessons That Matter

Jun. 5, 2012 ? Hilary

Today, we're proud to release our newest research brief with the California Safe Schools Coalition, *Lessons That Matter: LGBTQ Inclusivity and School Safety*. Check out the [press release](#) [1] for more details!



*Download the full report!*

[2] Did you know that LGBTQ-inclusive class lessons? especially those rated as supportive of LGBTQ people and issues? dramatically affect students' feelings of safety at school? *Lessons That Matter*, a new report published by GSA Network and the California Safe Schools Coalition, provides insight into the impact on students when different class lessons include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people and issues.

If you're in high school, these findings probably won't come as a shock ? but they might surprise your teachers and administrators, and give you research to back up your experience.

Thanks to years of youth activism, California passed the FAIR Education Act, updating education guidelines to end the exclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from social studies lessons. Students like you campaigned to see themselves reflected in lessons at school and they have been working to create a school environment where all students can feel safe. But the FAIR Education Act only went into effect this year, while districts, administrators and teachers are struggling with budget cuts and other challenges. Given all these challenges, what should schools prioritize?

Key findings from *Lessons That Matter* illustrate that LGBTQ-inclusive lessons significantly increase school safety for individual students and for the school climate as a whole. At a time when there is more concern than ever about LGBTQ bullying and safety in schools, this research shows that LGBTQ-inclusive lessons should be a top priority for schools.

If your school is still not following the FAIR Education Act's updates to the education guidelines by next year, it will be time to take action! We've got resources for you at [www.gsanetwork.org/FAIR](http://www.gsanetwork.org/FAIR) [3], and you can use research from *Lessons That Matter* to make your case. Findings like these make it more difficult for school officials to reduce your experience into an isolated incident. Remind them that they are required by law to include lessons about LGBTQ people and issues in their social studies and history lessons. And if they argue that they need resources? Send them to [www.faireducationact.com](http://www.faireducationact.com) [4].

Together, we can end the exclusion of LGBTQ people and issues from lessons ? and make schools safe for ALL students.

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#### Links

[1] <https://gsanetwork.org/news/new-research-shows-lgbtq-inclusive-lessons-improve-school-climate/060512>

[2] [https://gsanetwork.org/files/aboutus/PSH%20Report%206\\_2012.pdf](https://gsanetwork.org/files/aboutus/PSH%20Report%206_2012.pdf)

[3] <https://gsanetwork.org/FAIR>

[4] <http://www.faireducationact.com>