



## Internet Filtering Project

### **Does your school block access to LGBTQ websites on school computers?**

Public schools that provide computer access to students must have a policy regarding internet safety measures to protect students from “inappropriate subject matter.” *However, the internet filtering software some schools use may also block LGBTQ content that students have a right to access.*

### **LGBTQ does not = inappropriate.**

Some filtering software blocks access to all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender websites, including educational websites. Sometimes even when positive LGBTQ websites are blocked, websites that are anti-LGBTQ are not.

### **GLAD is collecting information on schools that block LGBTQ content.**

### **You can help by checking your school’s filters:**

**Step 1:** Determine if your school is censoring or blocking positive educational LGBTQ websites. Try these or other positive LGBTQ websites:

- GSA Network: <http://www.gsanetwork.org/>
- Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network: <http://www.glsen.org/>
- Point Foundation: <http://www.pointfoundation.org>
- Day of Silence: <http://www.dayofsilence.org/>
- Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders: <http://www.glad.org>
- Yale University’s LGBT Studies: <http://www.yale.edu/lgbts/>
- It Gets Better Project: <http://www.itgetsbetter.org/>
- The Trevor Project: <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>
- Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition: <http://www.masstpc.org/>
- BAGLY (Boston Alliance of Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Youth): <http://www.bagly.org/>



**If access is denied, document the denial** by taking a screen shot (typically, there is a Print Screen or PrtScn key on your keyboard or use your cell phone camera). Take a separate screen shot for each denial of access. If your school is blocking any positive LGBTQ sites, proceed to Step 2.

**Step 2:** Determine if your school is censoring or blocking websites that urge LGBTQ individuals to try to change their sexual orientation, such as:

- National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality: <http://www.narth.com/>
- People Can Change: <http://www.peoplecanchange.com/>
- Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays: <http://www.pfox.org/>

Again, create a record of what you could access and what you could not.

**Send your results to GLAD by emailing Vickie Henry at [vhenry@glad.org](mailto:vhenry@glad.org)**

**Thank you for your help!**

## QUESTIONS?



For more information or if you have any questions about your rights in school, **contact GLAD Answers *anytime* at [www.GLADAnswers.org](http://www.GLADAnswers.org)**

You can also work one-on-one with a trained volunteer, Monday-Friday, 1:30-4:30 p.m. by live chat or phone: **800-455-GLAD (4523)**.