

RESOURCES: PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

- **GLAD Answers**
Call: (800) 455-GLAD (4523)
Email or Live Chat:
www.GLADAnswers.org
- **Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination**
Boston: (617) 994-6000
New Bedford: (508) 990-2390
Springfield: (413) 739-2145
Worcester: (508) 799-8010
- **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Problem Resolution System**
(781) 338-3700
compliance@doe.mass.edu
- **U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights**
(617) 289-0111
OCR.Boston@ed.gov

RESOURCES: KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS

- Actions schools must take to prohibit harassment/discrimination of LGBTQ students according to the Code of Massachusetts Regulations:
<http://bit.ly/maschoolregulations>
- The text of the Massachusetts anti-bullying law
See <http://glad.org/got-lgbtq-rights>
- The DESE guidance on transgender students at:
<http://bit.ly/desegenderidentity>
- GLAD's publication: Rights of LGBT Public School Students: <http://bit.ly/studentrights>
- More info about GSAs, from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: <http://bit.ly/gsarights>

RESOURCES: LOCAL LGBTQ YOUTH GROUPS

- **BAGLY**
www.bagly.org
- **GLBT Youth Group Network of Massachusetts**
To find a group near you visit
www.bagly.org/programs/
- **Boston GLASS**
<http://bit.ly/PokxfS>
- **LGBT Coalition of Western MA**
<http://bit.ly/wmayouthcoalition>
- **Asian Pride/MAP**
<http://maphealth.org/programs/asian-pride/>

OTHER RESOURCES YOU CAN USE

- **AIDS Actions Committee Hotline**
(800) 235-2331
- **Hispanic Black Gay Coalition**
www.hbgc-boston.org
- **Fenway Community Health Center Peer Listening Line**
(800) 399-PEER (7337)
- **Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)**
<http://bit.ly/glsenstudent>
- **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)**
www.gbpflag.org
- **The Trevor Project**
Crisis/Support Line: (866) 488-7386
www.thetrevorproject.org

If your school doesn't take you seriously, if you find that any of your rights are not being respected, or if you have *any* legal questions, **contact GLAD Answers by email anytime at: GLADAnswers@glad.org**

Or work one-on-one with a trained volunteer Monday-Friday, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

- **Either by live chat:**
www.GLADAnswers.org
- **Or by phone: (800) 455-GLAD (4523)**

GLAD Answers is free and confidential and can provide you with additional information about your rights — and resources that can help you fight for them.

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



Want to Know Your Rights As an LGBTQ Student?

GLAD's Got Your Back.

Knowing Your Rights is the First Step to Empowering Yourself.



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GLADAnswers@glad.org

All Public School Students Have the Right:

- To be safe in school without being bullied or harassed by other students, teachers, or staff.
- To be protected from discrimination based on your sexual orientation or gender identity.
- To access information about LGBTQ subjects, including educational websites.
- To free speech and expression, including the right to express ideas respectfully that may offend others, and to disagree with others.
- To dress and present yourself in a manner consistent with your gender identity.

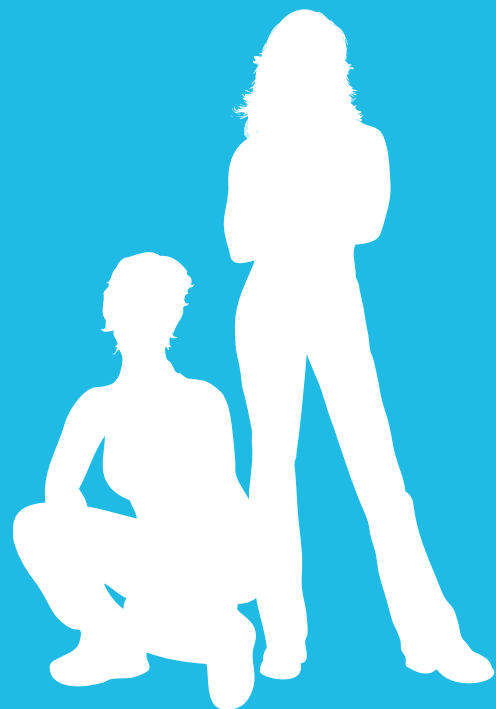
Under the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Guidance, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students Have the Right:

- To be called by their chosen names and pronouns.
- To be allowed access to bathrooms and locker rooms in accordance with their gender identity.
- To participate in gender-based activities like athletics according to their gender identity.
- To keep their medical records private.



All Public and Some Private School Students Have the Right:

- To be protected from discrimination or harassment based on your sex or HIV status.
- To be protected from sexual harassment.
- To be protected from bullying, defined as “any repeated written, verbal, electronic, or physical acts that:
 - (1) cause you physical or emotional harm;
 - (2) damage your property;
 - (3) create a hostile school environment;
 - (4) infringe on your rights; or
 - (5) disrupt your education.”
- To form a Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) that gets treated the same as every other non-curricular group. This means equal funding, access to facilities, and the ability to choose your group’s name.



What You Can Do if You’re Being Harassed, Bullied or Discriminated Against:

- **Tell somebody.** If you have understanding friends, parents, teachers, or counselors, use them as a support system.
- **Keep notes on what’s happening** (and record who, when, where, and how).
- **Get a copy of your school’s policies** on student conduct and discipline. It might be in your student handbook or on the school website. You can also talk to your guidance counselor or school administrator.
- **Report it to the person designated in your school’s policy.** Make your report in writing or electronically so you can prove you made it. Under the Massachusetts anti-bullying law, all teachers and staff **must** report any bullying they know about and **must** take action to investigate it, stop it, and prevent it from happening again. The school also must inform your parents and the parents of the bully, but you have the right to ask them not to ‘out’ you on your LGBTQ or HIV status.



If You Need Help, Contact GLADAnswers
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Outside School, You Have the Right:

- To be protected from discrimination based on your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or HIV status in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations (like restaurants or stores, though your access to a restroom based on your gender identity is not assured).
- To give your own consent to get tested for HIV without your parents’ permission, if you think you may have been exposed to it.
- To keep your HIV status private. Under MA law, healthcare providers can’t release HIV test results without your consent unless they feel your life is in danger, in which case they must notify your parents or guardians.
- To report to the police anyone in or out of school who physically harms you, threatens you or vandalizes your property.

Learn more
about your rights
www.glad.org/youth

