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/P0k6S
- **LGBT Coalition of Western MA**
- **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)**
- **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)**
  www.gbpflag.org
- **The Trevor Project**
  Crisis/Support Line: (866) 488-7386
  www.thetrevorproject.org

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

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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.

MASSACHUSETTS

Want to Know Your Rights As an LGBTQ Student?

GLAD’s Got Your Back.

Knowing Your Rights is the First Step to Empowering Yourself.

30 Winter Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02108
(617) 426-1350 • (800) 455-GLAD
GLADAnswers@glad.org
All Public School Students Have the Right:
• To be protected from sexual harassment.
• 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 Educa-
(TESE) 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.

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 stu-
dent 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.

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

If You Need Help, Contact GLADAnswers
Via Email, Live Chat, or Phone:
www.GLADAnswers.org
(800) 455-GLAD (4523)