RESOURCES: PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS
- GLAD Answers
  Call: (800) 455-GLAD (4523)
  Email or Live Chat:
  www.GLADAnswers.org
- Maine Office of the Attorney General
  Civil Rights Team Project
  (207) 626-8548
  Brandon.baldwin@maine.gov
- Maine Department of Education
  Voice: (207) 624-6600
  www.maine.gov/doe/
- US Department of Education
  Office for Civil Rights
  (617) 289-0111
  www2.ed.gov/ocr

RESOURCES: KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS
- GLAD's Maine students' rights webpage:
- The text of the Maine anti-bullying law:
- GLAD's webpage on student rights:

OTHER RESOURCES YOU CAN USE
- Frannie Peabody Center
  HIV Testing Tel: (207) 749-6818
  prevention@peabodycenter.org
- Maine Youth Action Network
  www.myan.org
- Maine Transgender Network
  mtn@mainetransnet.org
  www.mainetransnet.org
- Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV)
  (866) 83-4HELP (HelpLine); (207) 430-8334 (general)
  info@mcedv.org    www.mcedv.org
- Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA)
  (800) 871-7741    www.mecasa.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:
www.GLADAnswers.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.
Bullying includes:
Any communication (written, oral or electronic) or physical act or gesture that:
1. harms or seriously threatens you or your property;
2. creates a hostile school environment; or
3. interferes with your academic performance or ability to participate in school activities.

The law identifies certain characteristics that are often a target for bullying, including actual or perceived race; color; religion; national origin; ancestry or ethnicity; sexual orientation; socioeconomic status; age; physical, mental, emotional or learning disability (which includes HIV status); gender; gender identity and expression; physical appearance; weight; family status; or other distinguishing personal characteristics or association with another person with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

As a Public School Student, You Have the Right:
• To be safe in school without being bullied.
• 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.

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. All Maine public schools must adopt a bullying policy, and it must be posted on your school’s or district’s website, included in the student handbook and provided to students each year. If you don’t have a copy, ask your guidance counselor or school administrator for one.
• 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. Each school district must adopt a written policy that requires teachers and staff to report any incidents of bullying and for the school to:
  • promptly investigate and respond to any incidents of bullying;
  • take action to counter the negative effects of the bullying and reduce the risk of future bullying incidents; and
  • report to your parents the steps being taken to ensure your safety and prevent further acts of bullying.

Outside School, You Have the Right:
• To be protected from discrimination based on your actual or perceived sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or your HIV status in employment, housing, and public accommodations (like restaurants or stores).
• To give your own consent to get tested for HIV without your parents’ permission. Although the physician is not required to, he/she has the right to inform your parents of the HIV test results. If confidentiality is important to you, it is a good idea to talk to your doctor up front and understand his/her policies on this issue.
• To report to the police anyone in or out of school who physically harms you, threatens you, or vandalizes your property.

All Public and Some Private School Students Have the Right:
• To be protected from discrimination based on your sex, sexual orientation - including gender identity or expression - or HIV status.
• To be protected from sexual harassment.
• 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.

Get more information about your rights: www.glad.org/youth

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