

## RESOURCES: PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

### • GLAD Answers

Call: (800) 455-GLAD (4523)

Email or Live Chat:

[www.GLADAnswers.org](http://www.GLADAnswers.org)

### • Maine Office of the Attorney General

#### Civil Rights Team Project

(207) 626-8548

[Brandon.baldwin@maine.gov](mailto:Brandon.baldwin@maine.gov)

### • Maine Department of Education

Voice: (207) 624-6600

[www.maine.gov/doi/](http://www.maine.gov/doi/)

### • US Department of Education

#### Office for Civil Rights

(617) 289-0111

[www2.ed.gov/ocr](http://www2.ed.gov/ocr)

## RESOURCES: LOCAL LGBTQ YOUTH GROUPS

### • Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network

#### (GLSEN) Downeast Maine Chapter

(207) 667-2358 [downeastme@chapters.glsen.org](mailto:downeastme@chapters.glsen.org)

#### Southern Maine Chapter

[glsenomaine@gmail.com](mailto:glsenomaine@gmail.com)

[www.glsen.org/southernme](http://www.glsen.org/southernme)

### • Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and

#### Gays (PFLAG) Portland

[pflagportlandmaine@gmail.com](mailto:pflagportlandmaine@gmail.com)

### • New Beginnings

[info@newbeginmaine.org](mailto:info@newbeginmaine.org)

[www.newbeginmaine.org](http://www.newbeginmaine.org)

### • Out As I Want to Be

[outmidcoast@gmail.com](mailto:outmidcoast@gmail.com)

[www.outmaine.org](http://www.outmaine.org)

### • Trans Youth Equality Foundation

[www.transyouthequality.org](http://www.transyouthequality.org)

## RESOURCES: KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS

### • GLAD's Maine students' rights webpage:

<http://bit.ly/mestudentrights>

### • The text of the Maine anti-bullying law:

<http://bit.ly/mainebullylaw>

### • GLAD's webpage on student rights:

<http://bit.ly/gladstudentrights>

## OTHER RESOURCES YOU CAN USE

### • Frannie Peabody Center

HIV Testing Tel: (207) 749-6818

[prevention@peabodycenter.org](mailto:prevention@peabodycenter.org)

### • Maine Youth Action Network

[www.myan.org](http://www.myan.org)

### • Maine Transgender Network

[mtn@mainetransnet.org](mailto:mtn@mainetransnet.org)

[www.mainetransnet.org](http://www.mainetransnet.org)

### • Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV)

(866) 83-4HELP (HelpLine); (207) 430-8334 (general)

[info@mcedv.org](mailto:info@mcedv.org) [www.mcedv.org](http://www.mcedv.org)

### • Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA)

(800) 871-7741 [www.mecasa.org](http://www.mecasa.org)

### • The Trevor Project

Crisis/Support Line (866) 488-7386

[www.thetrevorproject.org](http://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](http://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](http://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 I N E



**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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(617) 426-1350 • (800) 455-GLAD

[GLADAnswers@glad.org](mailto:GLADAnswers@glad.org)



## 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.

## 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.

## 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.



## 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.

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

## 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.

Get more information about your rights:  
[www.glad.org/youth](http://www.glad.org/youth)

