

RESOURCES: PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

• GLAD Answers

Call: (800) 455-GLAD (4523)

Email or Live Chat:

www.GLADAnswers.org

• Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights

(401) 222-2661

www.richr.state.ri.us

• Rhode Island Department of Education

(401) 222-4600

• U.S. Department of Education

Office for Civil Rights

(617) 289-0111

www2.ed.gov/ocr

RESOURCES: KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS

- The text of the Rhode Island anti-bullying law:
<http://bit.ly/ribullylaw>
- GLAD's Rhode Island students' rights webpage:
<http://bit.ly/ristudentsrights>
- GLAD's webpage on student rights:
<http://bit.ly/gladstudentrights>

RESOURCES: LOCAL LGBTQ YOUTH GROUPS

• Youth Pride Inc.

(401) 421-5626

info@youthprideri.org

www.youthprideri.org

• Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

Greater Providence

(401) 751-7571

pflagprovidence@verizon.net

www.pflagprovidence.org/

OTHER RESOURCES YOU CAN USE

• GLBT Help Line of Rhode Island

(401) 751-3322 www.glbthelpline.org

• AIDS Project Rhode Island

(401) 831-5522 www.aidsprojectri.org

• East Bay Community Action Program

(401) 847-7821 www.ebcap.org

• Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

(401) 467-9940 1-800-494-8100 (24 hr)

• 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. EST

- **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.

R H O D E I S L A N D



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 safe in school without being sexually harassed, discriminated against, or **bullied** by other students, teachers or staff because of your sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or HIV status.
- 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 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.
- 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 use of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture directed at you which:
 - (1) causes you physical or emotional harm;
 - (2) causes damage to your property;
 - (3) places you in fear of harm or damage to your property;
 - (4) creates a hostile or abusive educational environment;
 - (5) infringes on your rights to participate in school activities; or
 - (6) substantially disrupts your education.

The law identifies certain characteristics that are often a target for bullying, including race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, **gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression and disability (which includes HIV status)**, intellectual ability or any other distinguishing characteristic.

What You Can Do if You're Being Harassed, Bullied or Discriminated Against at School:

- **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 RI schools must adopt a bullying policy and it must be posted on the home page of the school district's website. You can ask your guidance counselor or school administrator for a copy.
- **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 RI anti-bullying law, all teachers and staff **must** promptly report any bullying they know about and the school **must** take action to investigate it. The school must also take action to prevent further acts of bullying or retaliation and follow a strategy for providing counseling or referrals for perpetrators and victims and family members.

If You Need Help, Contact GLAD Answers via Email, Live Chat, or Phone:
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, gender identity or expression, or 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.
- To report to the police anyone in or out of school who physically harms you or vandalizes your property.

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

