

Supporting Trans Kids

Eastern PA Trans Equity Project supports the efforts of parents, families, schools, medical practitioners, and public institutions to support and nurture trans kids. Educational Institutions play a key role in helping trans kids yet many transgender students report significant issues*



- 90% of transgender students report hearing negative comments or derogatory terms, such as “tranny,” “dyke” or “faggot” often or frequently in school. Less than a fifth of transgender students said that school staff intervened most of the time or always when hearing homophobic or negative remarks about someone’s gender expression.
- 77% of transgender students had been physically harassed with 26% saying they were assaulted (punched, kicked, or injured with a weapon).
- Almost half of all transgender students reported skipping a class at least once in the past month. 46% said that they missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable.
- Transgender students who experience high levels of harassment have significantly lower grade point averages than those who experienced lower levels of harassment (2.2 vs 2.8). Only 32% of transgender students reported that they aspired to go to college vs. 49% for non-trans students
- Less than half (44%) of transgender students reported that they had a student club that address LGBT student issues, i.e., a Gay Straight-Alliance (GSA), in their school. Less than half (46%) of transgender students report that they can find information about LGBT people, history, or events in their school library and only a third (31%) were able to access this information using the school Internet.
- Only half (54%) of transgender students reported that their school had an anti-harassment policy, and only 24% said that the school policy included specific protections based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression

*Greytak, E. A., Kosciw, J. G., and Diaz, E. M. (2009). Harsh Realities: The Experiences of Transgender Youth in Our Nation’s Schools. New York: GLSEN.



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Resources:

Lehigh Valley:

- Project Silk: Provides daily, professionally staffed youth programs for LGBT youth ages 14-21. 315 N 7th St, Allentown, PA 18102. Phone: (267) 368-4978

Bucks County:

- Rainbow Room & ROY B. BIV: LGBTQIA youth programs that provides a supportive and empowering environment for youth. Ages 14-21 meet every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ages 10-14 meet Thursday evenings (requires parental consent) at 186 E. Court St. in Doylestown, PA. Phone: (267) 282-4117. rainbowroom@ppkeystone.org

Berks County:

- The Spectrum: Meets Wednesday afternoons at Reading High School.
- VOICES: Educational/Support & Social group for LGBT youth ages 12-18 (if still in school) hosted at St. Luke's Episcopal Church by The LGBT Center of Greater Reading every Tuesday from 3:30-5:30 pm. Contact advocate@lgbtcenterofreading.com for more info.

Chester County:

- Rainbow Phoenix: LGBTQ space for youth ages 14-18. Meets in-person monthly in Phoenixville. Email spot@ppsp.org for info.

Delaware County:

- Main Line Youth Alliance: MYA provides a safe and healthy environment for their LGBTQ youth. MYA meets each Friday evening from 7-9:30 pm. Email myayouthgroup@gmail.com for details.

York County:

- The Curve: 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 4-5:30pm at the Rainbow Rose Center. 2930 Carol Rd., Suite B, York, PA 17402. Phone: 717-746-8738

Harrisburg:

- GLO: Provides daily, professionally staffed youth programs for LGBT youth ages 14-21. Strawberry Square, 303 Walnut St., Suite 204, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102. (717) 743-1908. info@gloharrisburg.org

Lackawanna County:

- NEPA Youth Shelter: Afternoon drop-in program for youth. Monday-Thursday 3-7pm, 541 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton PA 18509, nepayouthshelter@gmail.com, Phone 570-904-7449

Philadelphia:

- Attic Youth Center: Programs and services designed to provide youth with support and skills. 3-6pm M-F, 255 S 16th St, Philadelphia, PA 19102, (215) 545-4331, <https://atticyouthcenter.org/contact/>

Virtual Programs:

- Q Chat Space: Professionally staffed and moderated online discussion groups for LGBTQ+ and questioning teens ages 13 to 19. <https://www.qchatspace.org/>
- Stand with Trans 9-12 <https://standwithtrans.org/support-groups/> weekly tween group. Meets on Zoom and requires pre-registration.
- Imi guide: <https://imi.guide/> on-line guides built for and with LGBTQ+ teens to help you explore your identity and support your mental health.