KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
LGBTQ STUDENT RIGHTS AT SCHOOL
A GUIDE FROM THE ACLU OF CALIFORNIA

CONTACT US
ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ACLU OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
ACLU OF SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES

GET MORE INFORMATION AT
www.aclu.org/LGBTQ

ACLU OF CALIFORNIA
HAIRNESS OF LGBTQ STUDENTS
All students have the right to be treated equally and to be free from bullying, harassment and discrimination, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

RESPECTING TRANSGENDER AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING STUDENTS' RIGHTS
Transgender and gender non-conforming students have the right to be respected and to dress and act in ways that don't conform to stereotypes associated with their gender. Transgender students also have the right to be referred to by their pronoun of choice, and to wear clothes and access spaces such as locker rooms and restrooms that fit their gender identity.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION
You have the right to be "out" and to be yourself at school. You also have the right to speak out about LGBTQ issues, including by wearing LGBTQ-positive t-shirts, stickers and bracelets, to access information about LGBTQ issues on school computers, and to bring same-sex dates to prom.

PRIVACY AND "OUTING" STUDENTS
You have a right to keep your LGBTQ identity private, which means that school staff cannot "out" you without your permission, except under very limited circumstances.

GAY-Straight ALLIANCES
If your school has even one extracurricular club, the school must allow you to start a Gay-Straight Alliance and cannot treat the GSA differently than any other club.

UNBIASED AND LGBTQ INCLUSIVE INSTRUCTION
Your school should be teaching LGBTQ inclusive history and sexual health education, and should never be allowing bias in the classroom.

IF YOU ARE BEING BULLIED, HARASSED OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST:
- Don't be silent, file a complaint!
- Ask for a Uniform Complaint form from your front office or school district website (if you can't find it, contact us at the information below).
- Write down a who/what/where/when/why description of every incident.
- Make sure to get a signed and dated copy of your complaint from whoever you turned it into at the school office.

To find out more about filing complaints, go to www.aclu-sc.org/SRP.