

Tolerance & Acceptance of Race, Religion and Sexual Orientation, LGBTQ

Anthony Eftimeo
GLSEN Los Angeles
Executive Director

Tolerance

- Definition: “ sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from or conflicting with one's own”
–Merriam Webster’s Dictionary

Changing the Mindset

Tolerance



Understanding



Acceptance/
Appreciation

Statistics

Biased Remarks from Students

- The most common types of biased remarks heard were: expressions using “gay” in a negative way, e.g. “that’s so gay” (55.0% heard often or very often), sexist remarks (56.0% heard often or very often), and racist remarks (55.4% heard often or very often).
- The least commonly heard remarks were negative remarks about transgender people (14.2% of students heard often or very often) and negative religious remarks (9.5% heard often or very often).

Statistics Continued

Biased Remarks from Teachers and School Staff

- One quarter (25.5%) of students reported hearing school staff make negative remarks related to students' gender expression.
- Approximately one-fifth of students reported hearing school staff make negative remarks about students' academic ability (22.5%) and sexist remarks (20.6%).
- Students also reported hearing school staff make homophobic remarks (15.3%), racist remarks (14.4%), negative remarks about religion (14.1%), and negative remarks about transgender people (12.6%).

LGBTQ



The Damage of Bullying

- Students who experience bullying are at increased risk for poor school adjustment, sleep difficulties, anxiety, and depression. (Center for Disease Control, 2015)
- Students who engage in bullying behavior are at increased risk for academic problems, substance use, and violent behavior later in adolescence and adulthood. (Center for Disease Control, 2015)
- Students who are both targets of bullying and engage in bullying behavior are at greater risk for both mental health and behavior problems than students who only bully or are only bullied. (Center for Disease Control, 2015)
- Students who experience bullying are twice as likely as non-bullied peers to experience negative health effects such as headaches and stomachaches. (Gini and Pozzoli, 2013)

Creating Safe and Welcoming Learning Environments

- Provide inclusive materials and curriculum.
- Enumerated anti-bullying policies.
- Professional development/programs for staff, students etc..
- Removing “Zero-Tolerance” policies.
- Be very mindful about Peer Mediation.
- Moving away from using the term tolerance and move more to acceptance/ appreciation.
- Difference between “reporting” and “tattling”

Resources

- www.glsen.org
- <http://www.glsen.org/article/2013-national-school-climate-survey>
- <http://www.glsen.org/lscs>
- <http://www.glsen.org/article/state-state-research>
- www.adl.org
- www.adl.org/education

Thank you

- Questions & Comments are welcome
- Contact:
 - Anthony Eftimeo
 - aeftimeo@adl.org
 - Eftimeo@gmail.com