

GSA's in Schools

GENDER SEXUALITY ALLIANCE OR GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

The Tri-County Regional Centre for Education Encourages & Supports GSA's in all Schools

What's a GSA?

- GSA's are safer and accepting spaces that affirm people's right to discern and express their sexual & gender identity on their own terms.
- GSA's are student lead and open to ALL students who want to make friends and create opportunities to get involved in school life.
- A GSA is dedicated to the safety of 2 Spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Queer and Questioning youth (2SLGBTQIA+) and their allies.
- GSA's are a place of advocacy, awareness, education and support for 2SLGBTQIA+ students and their allies.
- GSA's are dedicated towards working for positive social change.
- GSA's are unique in responding to the needs of the students in each school. GSAs need not be identical in the way they support students from school to school.

Why we need GSAs?

- To promote and uphold human rights guaranteed through the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act (2019) which recognizes a person's right not to be discriminated against based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
- To affirm the support promised to transgender youth through the *Guidelines for Supporting Transgender and Gender-nonconforming Students*, released in 2016 by the Nova Scotia Department of Education Early Childhood Development.
- GSA's strive to offer shelter from discrimination and harm that homophobia and transphobia cause.
- To transform school culture to be more inclusive, compassionate, understanding and fair for ALL students in the school, not just 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.

Who can be involved?

EVERYONE! Primary to Grade 12 who support the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community! A GSA is made up of 2SLGBTQIA+ students and their allies, along with a staff advisor.

When & Where?

GSA advisors provide a safe space during the school's designated GSA meeting time, free of homophobia, transphobia, ageism, racism, classism, sexism, and any other forms of discrimination.

More info:

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Resources:

[Guidelines for Supporting Transgender & Gender Non-conforming students](#)

[Nova Scotia Inclusion Policy](#)

[Nova Scotia Virtual GSA Website](#)

[Equity & Inclusion Education Resource Kit](#)

[Nova Scotia Human Rights Act 2019](#)

[Youth Project Provincial GSA Manual](#)



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