



Transgender youth face unique and specific challenges. Lehigh Valley Renaissance 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 trans students report significant issues*

- 90% of transgender students report hearing negative comments or derogatory terms, such as “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.
- 87% of all transgender students had been verbally harassed within the past year. Over half of all 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.



Local Resources

- Project Silk: Provides daily, professionally-staffed youth programs for LGBT youth ages 14-21, builds leadership among LGBT youth and provides HIV interventions to empower youth to be their own healthcare advocates. 522 West Maple St., Allentown PA 18101. 610-347-9988x301.
- HAVEN: A Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Youth Group hosted and sponsored by the UUCLV. Although part of the UUCLV, HAVEN it is not a religious group. All religious backgrounds are welcome. 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA, 18018. 610-868-2153.
- Parents of Trans Kids Support Group: A peer-led support group for parents. Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center. 522 West Maple St., Allentown PA 18101. 610-347-9988.
- The Trevor Project: Suicide Prevention: A 24-hour, 7 day a week suicide prevention hotline. Trained staff is available via phone, text or chat. www.thetrevorproject.org.

Resources For Educators/Administrators

- Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center: www.BradburySullivanCenter.org
- Pennsylvania Youth Congress: www.payouthcongress.org
- National Center For Transgender Equality: www.transequality.org
- Human Rights Campaign: www.hrc.org
- ACLU: www.aclu.org
- Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN): www.GLSEN.org
- Trans Youth Equality Foundation: www.transyouthequality.org