



WHAT DOES GSA STAND FOR?

GSA stands for Gender and Sexuality Alliance (or previously known as Gay Straight Alliance).

WHAT IS A GSA? WHO IS IT FOR?

A GSA is a safe space for youth of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. GSAs provide a supportive environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) students, as well as those who are perceived by others to be LGBTQ+, are questioning their identity, have LGBTQ+ friends or family members, or just care about LGBTQ+ issues (allies).

WHY DOES MY SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION NEED A GSA?

Research indicates that GSAs decrease likelihood of anti-LGBTQ+ behaviors and aggressions, increase individual well-being and educational outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth, as well as providing a safe place for youth to authentically be themselves. Participation in GSAs is related to stronger sense of connectedness within their community and improved overall safety in their environment for LGBTQ+ youth, and regardless of whether LGBTQ+ youth themselves participate in their GSA, just having a GSA in their school/organization can create a culture of acceptance.

INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION? WANT TO START A GSA?

Contact our GSA Advisor Liaison, Faith Winship: youthleadership@glyswny.org