

# 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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