



# Preventing Suicidal Behavior among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth

## *Developing LGBT cultural competence*

### SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

*Depending on the mission and size of your school, you may have to modify some of these. Think about the idea behind the issue, and explore whether there is an alternative way to address it.*

#### INDIVIDUAL STAFF MEMBER OR TEACHER

- Has knowledge of issues for LGBT people including victimization, difficulties accessing services, and ineffective providers
- Has awareness of heterosexism and discrimination against transgender people
- Models appreciation for all youth, condemns any discrimination, and plays advocacy role
- Gets support from other staff when exploring values and developing empathy
- Assesses and respects youth's decision about disclosing to others

#### SCHOOL

- Has explicit policies prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation
- Has explicit policies prohibiting discriminatory language, bullying, and physical violence
- Has a "Safe Zone" program and a Gay-Straight Alliance or similar group
- Provides information about LGBT suicide risk in staff awareness education
- Has programs about LGBT issues and invites young teens and pre-teens
- Trains faculty and staff in LGBT culturally competent services and includes in supervision and performance review
- Offers informational programming for families on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity
- Offers extracurricular programs that reflect diversity
- Has openly LGBT students, teachers, and/or staff members
- Establishes a welcoming environment through outreach, front desk, classrooms, and other school space that reflect support and inclusion
- Addresses LGBT issues throughout curricula including examples of LGBT people. Health education includes LGBT perspective.
- Uses forms for parents and students that allow for range of sexual orientations and gender identities, and a diversity of households
- Offers LGBT-inclusive resources and services for referrals
- Provides easily available, accurate information and library and media resources that provide LGBT information and authors
- Reviews school printed and media materials with LGBT people
- Supports staff who play an advocacy role
- Has unisex bathrooms and inclusive dress code