

*"It feels good to contribute to change in our school regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. Gay, Straight, Bisexual or Transgender, the GSA is a welcoming and safe place for everyone."
~ Students of GSA*

Who is this for?

A school-based program for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. It is a great way to make friends, as well as create a safe place within the school.

How Do Straight Students Benefit From Joining GSA?

Although the main goal of a GSA is to increase tolerance and decrease discrimination against LGBT students, another goal is to make school a safe place for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation. The GSA also supplies a safe place to talk, or discuss problems, whether the problems are LGBT or straight related.

Resources

- The Youth Project – <http://www.youthproject.ns.ca/>
- GLSEN – <http://www.glsen.org>
- Egale Canada – <http://www.egale.ca/>
- GSA Network – <http://gsanetwork.org/>

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Mission Statement

We the Richmond Academy Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) strive to unify the student body by providing a safe and respectful environment for all regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Our mission is to protect the diverse group that is our school community through education and acceptance. We aim to diminish homophobia, transphobia and heterosexism and encourage absolute equality.

*"Be who you are and say what you feel.
Because those who mind don't matter
and those who matter don't mind."*

~Dr. Seuss

What is a GSA?

A gay straight alliance (GSA) is a youth school group that strives to make the school a safer place for *lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered* (LGBT) students.

A GSA supplies a safe, comfortable place for students of ALL sexual orientations (including straight) and gender identities to get to know each other better and help make a positive change in schools.



What the GSA Does

GSA works by creating a positive environment, not just during meetings but around the school. The Group creates events and organized activities that educate and promote tolerance towards students of the LGBT community.

Examples of such things are:

- Factoid posters
- Educational Videos
- Special events (i.e. face painting, banners, fundraisers, etc.)

Why Do Schools Need A GSA?

Many students face harassment from other students and classmates because of their sexuality. By having a GSA within the school, students become more comfortable with their sexual identification. They may feel more comfortable coming out to their family and friends in a safe and understanding environment.

*"Do not follow where the path may lead.
Go, instead, where there is no path and
leave a trail."*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

"A GSA is important to have in high schools because not only is it a support group for students of any sexual orientation (including straight) it's also an educational group that encourages leadership by members promoting LGBTQ awareness and understanding to their peers and school community. It's about equality and the basic human rights we all have to be who we are."

~Guidance, Mrs. Margie MacMillan