

PFLAG

Many PFLAG chapters are interested in working with youth. While youth programming is not core to the [mission of PFLAG](#), partnering with LGBTQ+ programs in schools can be a way to both reach educators and support young people without hosting your own youth support group. Many local schools may have GSAs, Rainbow Clubs, diversity groups, or student affinity clubs that PFLAG chapters can support. Remember that working with student groups provides an opportunity to empower youth as leaders in their LGBTQ+-focused work.

When working to build a relationship with a local GSA, consider:

- Research if your local school district(s) may have a DEI Coordinator or other similar role that can connect you to LGBTQ+ student affinity groups.
- Reach out to GSA advisors directly and individually– more likely to yield results than a mass email!
- Remember that GSAs are not just limited to high schools! Colleges, middle schools and elementary schools may have or be interested in starting GSAs or equivalent student groups.
- Connect with guidance counselors, school social workers, and any other school staff who may be interested in starting a GSA. Refer them to resources from [GLSEN](#), [GSA Network](#), and [Gender Inclusive Classrooms](#).
- Learn about school and district policies as well as local laws that may be at play when partnering with GSAs and supporting student groups/youth.

Once you've connected with GSAs or LGBTQ+ student affinity groups in your area, next steps can include:

- Use the GSA to get the word out about your chapter. Students and advisors can uplift PFLAG to caregivers. Share PFLAG flyers, brochures, and [publications](#) with GSA advisors and school guidance counselors. Find out if your GSA or district DEI/LGBTQ+ office has a website, bulletin board, or newsletter where PFLAG can be featured.
- Consider offering grants to your local GSAs (see [PFLAG Wilmington](#) for an example).
- Use a PFLAG chapter meeting or event to write support notes to students that can be shared with GSAs.

- Consider hosting a “pop up” meeting for parents/caregivers around holiday seasons or National Coming Out Day
- Support a GSA meeting or event with PFLAG swag, programming (like Frameline’s [Youth in Motion](#) program), or having a PFLAGer speak to students.
- Use relationships with GSAs to increase your chapter’s awareness of [advocacy](#) that may be needed on behalf of LGBTQ+ students at local school board meetings.
- GSA leadership and priorities are likely to change year to year. Keep in mind that your relationship with local GSAs may vary every school year.
- If your chapter has a scholarship program, encourage students from local high school and college GSAs to apply!