

Illinois Advocates

GLSEN advocates for LGBTQ+ youth in K-12 schools across the country. Please consider joining your state's GLSEN Chapter and connecting with other state-based advocates in your communities to advance our vision of positive school transformation where every young person can at minimum feel safe and ultimately experience schools as places of liberation. Our theory of change is grounded in our support for truly adequate funding for public education that is allocated using the lens of intersectional equity, inclusive of LGBTQ+ communities, and that provides resources to implement the four core supports we have identified from conducting over 20 years of research:

- GSAs (Gay Straight Alliances or Gender and Sexuality Alliances) and other networks that facilitate youth leadership
- Supportive educators and other networks of adult allies
- Inclusive curriculum that allows all young people to see their full selves reflected in classrooms and to learn about people who are different than themselves
- Comprehensive policies that prohibit victimization, including discrimination, bullying, harassment, and punitive discipline that increases the risk of criminalization and youth entering the school to prison pipeline

For each state, territory, and the District of Columbia, you will find contact information for your State Policy Fellow, who is the lead liaison for policy advocacy in your state, contact information for GLSEN Chapters, and the regional Freedom Fellow who advises and supports the GLSEN chapter network on topics affecting LGBTQ+ students in your state. Additionally, you will find the contact information for GLSEN's Youth Programs and GLSEN's Education Programs. Thank you for your advocacy and joining GLSEN in fighting for justice for LGBTQ+ youth in K-12 schools.

Additional Resources

If you are seeking legal advice and support due to experiencing discrimination, please refer to our [LGBTQ+ Student Rights](#) and [LGBTQ + Educator Rights](#) resources. These resources provide information about how to file a federal, state, or local civil rights violation complaint as well as links to seek legal assistance from the ACLU's National LGBT Project and the National Women's Law Center Fund's Legal Network for Gender Equity.

GLSEN NETWORK CONTACTS

GLSEN Chapter: N/A

State Policy Fellow

Illinois.policy@glsen.org

Regional Freedom Fellow

Midwest.FF@glsen.org

Youth Programs Contact

students@glsen.org

Education Programs Contact

educators@glsen.org