

LGBTQ K-12 Education

A select annotated bibliography

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Overview

Since 2003, GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) has been conducting the National School Climate Survey every two years. The 2013 survey found that less than half of LGBTQ students reported being able to find LGBTQ resources in their school libraries; this number has changed little in the ten years the survey has been administered. Although LGBTQ issues have gained much more visibility in recent years, gender and sexual diversity often remains a taboo topic in schools, whether explicitly or implicitly. The California Safe Schools Coalition has found that an LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum benefits all students, but moving towards a more inclusive curriculum school environment can be challenging even for teachers who are open to such efforts.

This list is intended to provide an introduction to LGBTQ topics in schools for school librarians, teachers, school administrators, and other educators. The list is not exhaustive, but represents a selection of high-quality resources accessible and useful for educators already familiar with LGBTQ studies and education, as well as those new to the subject. Some of the texts are straight-forward overviews of law and policy, others represent research conducted by a single author, and others are collections of essays or classroom vignettes. Resources include 18 books on K-12 education, eight on teacher education, two films, and nine organizations with associated websites.

Books

K-12 EDUCATION

Biegel, Stuart. *The Right to Be Out: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in America's Public Schools*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2010.

Biegel, a faculty member at the UCLA School of Law and the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, outlines the history and legal precedents which have been used to support and protect LGBTQ teachers and students, as well as curriculum inclusion and extracurricular activities. In 2011, *The Right to Be Out* was a Stonewall Honor Book and nominated for a Lambda Literary Award in nonfiction. Biegel provides a valuable resource for administrators and educators who plan to implement LGBTQ inclusive education practices.

Blackburn, Mollie. *Interrupting Hate: Homophobia in Schools and What Literacy Can Do About It*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2012.

In this slim volume, Mollie Blackburn explores ways in which literature can be used to combat homophobia, both in school and informal settings. She gives special attention to the role of educators in promoting agency among LGBTQ youth, as well as allyship among both youth and educators. Blackburn explains that an ally is anyone committed to ending anti-LGBTQ harassment, and that, for example, LGBTQ adults can be allies to

LGBTQ youth, or a cisgender lesbian student can be an ally to transgender students. She presents allyship not as a static identity, but rather as a continual process of being and becoming.

Blackburn, Mollie, et al, eds. *Acting Out! Combating Homophobia through Teacher Activism*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2009.

Part of the Practitioner Inquiry Series from the Teachers College Press, "Acting Out!" includes essay-style chapters written by members of the Pink TIGers (Teacher Inquiry Group), a group of K-12 teachers and teacher educators working in Ohio to combat homophobia in schools. The essays provide a variety of perspectives, experiences, and lessons learned.

Blaise, Mindy. *Playing it Straight: Uncovering the Gender Discourse in the Early Childhood Classroom*. New York: Routledge, 2005.

Mindy Blaise spent an academic year observing one kindergarten class in an urban public school in the northeastern United States. Through feminist poststructuralism and queer theory, Blaise studied how young children experience gender and found that children actively participate in the construction of gender. In *Playing It Straight*, Blaise explores these different ways in which young children experience gender, and the ways in which educators may challenge gender politics in the early childhood classroom.

Bryan, Jennifer. *From the Dress-Up Corner to the Senior Prom: Navigating Gender and Sexuality Diversity in PreK-12 Schools*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Education, 2012.

Bryan's text aims to aid educators in navigating gender and sexual development and diversity in schools in ways that are appropriate for any age. The book explores *gender identity development* and *sexuality identity development* in human beings, and how this development relates to the school setting, particularly in regards to gender and sexual diversity. The first section of the book defines gender and sexuality and developmentally appropriate practice, providing background information for readers unfamiliar with such topics. The rest of the book provides practical activities, discussions, lessons, and classroom vignettes and quotations.

Cianciotto, Jason and Sean Cahill. *LGBT Youth in America's Schools*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2012.

Cianciotto and Cahill offer a comprehensive review of social science research into the experiences of LGBT students and school-based policies and local, state, and federal laws that affect LGBT students. In addition to an overview of research and policy, each section also includes a profile or case study of an LGBT student's experience in school.

Fisher, Emily S. and Kennedy, Kelly S. *Responsive School Practices to Support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Students and Families*. New York: Routledge, 2012.

This book provides a practical and useful guide for school-based mental health professionals to support students, families, teachers, and administrators in the development of a safe, inclusive school environment for all LGBTQ students and families. It begins with an overview of the unique issues and challenges faced by LGBTQ students and families, including a discussion of sexuality and gender identity development within the interconnected contexts of home, school, and community. Practical steps are given for creating an inclusive school environment; implementing

prevention and intervention techniques to address discrimination, bullying, and violence; and organizing effective counseling programs for LGBTQ students [Publisher synopsis].

Jones, Joseph R. (Un)normalizing Education: Addressing Homophobia in Higher Education and K-12 Schools. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Press, 2014.

In this book, Jones postulates that we must begin exploring the culture of educational environments as they relate to sexual difference, in order to begin conceptualizing ways in which we may begin to address homophobia and heteronormativity. To that end, this book addresses how educators (at all levels) must begin examining how their concepts about different sexual identities are "normalized" through socializing processes and schooling. In doing so, this book examines how individuals construct meanings about homophobia and hate language through "contextual oppositions," how educational environments maintain a "false tolerance" when claiming to be tolerant of different sexual identities, how a hierarchy of hate language exists in educational environments, among other issues related to creating safe places for all students.

Lugg, Catherine A. U.S. Public Schools and the Politics of Queer Erasure. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Since the 1920s, US public schools have focused on erasing queer identity. From teacher purges to vicious bullying of queer youth, these actions have been the norm for nearly one hundred years - thanks to the interplay of law, policy, and politics. In light of the recent Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, Lugg uses this history to illuminate a possible way forward to make public schools places of tolerance and even liberation for both queer youth and queer adults [Publisher synopsis].

Macgillivray, Ian K. Gay-Straight Alliances: A Handbook for Students, Educators, and Parents. New York: Harrington Park Press, 2007.

Gay-Straight Alliances: A Handbook for Students, Educators, and Parents explains exactly how to begin this important type of school club that helps build positive relationships and promotes knowledge and tolerance. This guide tells students what it takes to start a GSA at their school, teachers how best to work with GSAs, and helps principals and superintendents to understand the applicable laws. Parents who read this book can discover for themselves just how positive an influence the GSA may be in their child's life [Publisher synopsis].

Mayo, Cris. LGBTQ Youth & Education: Policies & Practices. New York: Teachers College Press, 2013.

Mayo provides a historical and legal context for educational policies and practices which protect LGBTQ students and create safer schools for all students. Throughout the text Mayo explores the ways in which intersecting identities of race, religion, or ethnicity can affect LGBTQ students, and further examines the part that strict gender roles in schools play in restricting the lives of all students. The book balances discussion of discrimination and self-advocacy of LGBTQ students, and words toward deconstructing heteronormative assumptions common in schools.

McEntarfer, Heather K. Navigating Gender and Sexuality in the Classroom: Narrative Insights from Students and Educators. New York: Routledge, 2016.

Gender identity and sexuality play crucial roles in the educational experiences of students, parents, and teachers. Teacher education must more directly address the ways that schools reflect and reproduce oppressive gender norms, working to combat homophobia, transphobia, heteronormativity, and gendered expectations in schools. This

volume examines teacher candidates' experiences with gender and sexuality in the classroom, offering insight and strategies to better prepare teachers and teacher educators to support LGBTQ youth and families [Publisher synopsis].

Meyer, Elizabeth J. Gender and Sexual Diversity in Schools. New York: Springer, 2010.

Meyer provides an introduction to gender and sexual diversity in education with chapters on student health, safety, and achievement, on theoretical foundations and critical pedagogies, and understanding sex and gender. She goes on the detail strategies for improving school climate for LGBT and gender nonconforming students, integrating LGBT curriculum across the subject areas, laws protecting LGBT students and teachers in Canada and the US, and strategies for overcoming barriers. *Gender and Sexual Diversity in Schools* also provides detailed notes and references to other useful works.

Price, Deborah and Tayler, Kath. LGBT Diversity and Inclusion in Early Years Education. New York: Routledge, 2015.

LGBT Diversity and Inclusion in Early Years Education examines the history of equalities legislation and the diversity of families with LGBT members alongside pragmatic advice to ensure that all children, families and staff feel welcomed and celebrated in the early years setting. Including case studies, reading lists and links to useful websites and organizations, this book is valuable reading for all early years practitioners and students that want to promote an inclusive environment for the children in their care.

Rupp, Leila J. and Susan K. Freeman. Understanding and Teaching U.S. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, 2014.

This series of essays by U.S. history professors provides insights into the opportunities for LGBT inclusion in existing social studies curricula, teaching strategies for covering relevant LGBT topics, and suggested resources. Overall, the book approaches LGBT themes as interwoven into the social and political currents throughout U.S. history, and individual essays cover the challenges and opportunities in teaching LGBT history, surveys of time periods in U.S. history, and other topics such as the role of the Supreme Court in LGBT history, LGBT parenting, same-sex marriage, the role of HIV/AIDS in U.S. and LGBT history, and teaching LGBT history with fiction and media.

Sears, James T., ed. Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Issues in Education: Programs, Policies, and Practices. New York: Routledge, 2011.

This collection begins with a series of essays by LGBT youth from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and China. Section Two introduces Research and Policy with chapters covering the experiences of LGBT youth and an overview of research. Section Three, Programs and Practices, includes diverse selection of case studies. As a whole, the volume covers a variety of LGBT topics in education, with special attention to international and intersectional approaches.

Short, Donn. "Don't Be So Gay!": Queers, Bullying, and Making Schools Safe. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2013.

Recent cases of teen suicide linked with homophobic bullying have thrust the issue of school safety into the national spotlight. In *"Don't Be So Gay!"*, Donn Short considers the effectiveness of safe-school legislation. Drawing on interviews with queer youth and their allies in the Toronto area, Short concludes that current legislation is more responsive

than proactive. Moreover, cultural influences and peer pressure may be more powerful than legislation in shaping the school environment. Exploring how students' own experiences, ideas, and definitions of safety might be translated into policy reform, this book offers a fresh perspective on a hotly debated issue.

Wimberly, George L., ed. LGBTQ Issues in Education: Advancing a Research Agenda. Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association, 2015.

LGBTQ Issues in Education: Advancing a Research Agenda examines the current state of the knowledge on LGBTQ issues in education and addresses future research directions. The editor and authors draw on existing literature, theories, and data as they synthesize key areas of research. Readers studying LGBTQ issues or working on adjacent topics will find the book to be an invaluable tool as it sets forth major findings and recommendations for additional research. Equally important, the book brings to light the importance of investing in research and data on a topic of critical educational and social significance [Publisher synopsis].

TEACHER EDUCATION

Connell, Catherine. School's Out: Gay and Lesbian Teachers in the Classroom. Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2014.

Using rich interview and ethnographic materials from Texas and California, *School's Out* explores how teachers struggle to create a classroom persona that balances who they are and what's expected of them in a climate of pervasive homophobia. Catherine Connell takes readers into the private and professional lives of gay and lesbian educators, along the way developing the innovative concept of racialized homophobia, which thwarts challenges to sexual injustices in schools. Connell's exploration of the tension between the rhetoric of gay pride and the professional ethic of discretion insightfully connects and considers other complicating factors, from local law and politics to race and gender privilege [Publisher synopsis].

DeWitt, Peter. Dignity for All: Safeguarding LGBT Students. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Sage Press, 2012.

This book provides professional development ideas and real-life vignettes that will help educational leaders foster a more caring school culture not only for LGBT students, but for all students. This practical and compassionate guide contains numerous cases and examples, strategies and templates for codes of conduct (including the NY Code), book study questions, and links to pertinent articles, websites, and blogs for further information. *Dignity for All* helps inform educators of the issues and methods for building acceptance in a diverse world [Publisher synopsis].

Endo, Hidehiro and Miller, Paul C., eds. Queer Voices from the Classroom. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Press, 2013.

This inaugural volume of the new book series, Research in Queer Studies, is a collection of memoirs or short narrative essays in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex or queer PK-12 teachers and/or administrators (either "out" or "not out") recount their personal experiences as a queer teachers. The authors of these stories write about significant experiences that describe how their sexual identity has shaped who they are today as teachers/administrators [Publisher synopsis].

Harris, Anne M. and Gray, Emily M., eds. Queer Teachers, Identity and Performativity. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

What do we mean when we talk about 'queer teachers'? The authors here grapple with what it means to be sexually or gender diverse and to work as a school teacher within four national contexts: Australia, Ireland, the UK and the USA. This new volume offers academics, educators and students a provocative exploration of this pivotal topic [Publisher synopsis].

Jennings, Kevin. One Teacher in Ten in the New Millennium: LGBT Educators Speak Out About What's Gotten Better and What Hasn't. Boston: Beacon Press, 2015.

Following on two volumes of completely original stories published in 1994 and 2004, the all-new third edition of *One Teacher in Ten* brings together stories from around America - and around the world - of teachers negotiating the challenge of being LGBT in the classroom. Voices largely absent from the first two editions - including transgender people, people of color, and educators from outside the US - feature prominently in the new collection, giving readers a richer and deeper understanding of the diverse experiences of LGBT educators [Publisher synopsis].

Kissen, Rita M., ed. Getting Ready for Benjamin: Preparing Teachers for Sexual Diversity in the Classroom. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2002.

This collection of research and essays is divided into three sections: "Surveying the Landscape," which examines the state of gender and sexual diversity in schools and teacher education. Part two, "Add LGBT and Stir": Multiculturalism and Sexual Diversity" discusses both the theory and practice of multicultural and LGBT inclusive education. Part three, "Telling Our Stories" features the stories of LGBT teachers, teacher candidates, and teacher educators. Contributors include teachers and teacher educators from the United States, Canada, Australia, and the UK. Chapters include research and professional papers, reflections on practice, and personal essays. Getting Ready offers insight into combating homophobia, recognizing heterosexism, identifying barriers, challenging gender roles, and teaching for inclusion.

Lindsey, Randall B., et al. A Culturally Proficient Response to LGBT Communities: A Guide for Educators. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Sage Press, 2013.

A Culturally Proficient Response to LGBT Communities is a guide for educators to collaboratively combat issues of discrimination, inequity, and bullying through the review of current policies, practices, and deeply held assumptions about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered (LGBT) communities. This inside-out approach carries readers through a personal journey of reflection to action by using the Tools of Cultural Proficiency to examine their values, beliefs, and assumptions about how LGBT communities are served educationally [Publisher synopsis].

Murray, Olivia J. Queer Inclusion in Teacher Education: Bridging Theory, Research, and Practice. New York: Routledge, 2014.

Aimed at both academics and practitioners, *Queer Inclusion* seeks to promote a better understanding of LGBTQ issues through better teacher education. The book is divided into three parts: the first section explores both LGBTQ identities and the current climate of K--12 teacher education, the second section looks at case studies, including the author's personal experience, and the final section provides a practical toolkit with

materials and activities for faculty development and teacher education. A companion website (queerinclusion.com) provides reflection questions and recommended resources for each chapter.

Films

It's Elementary! Dir. Debra Chasnoff. Groundspark, 1996.

It's Elementary! explores the rationale and strategies for discussing gay and lesbian topics with young students in an age-appropriate way. Filmmakers visited elementary and middle school classrooms where teachers facilitated discussions with their students around gay and lesbian issues. The comments of students show complex understanding and a desire to talk about what they have heard in media and at home. Although the film is now 20 years old, *It's Elementary!* stands out as a significant and valuable resource for teachers and LGBT education.

It's STILL Elementary! Dir. Debra Chasnoff. Groundspark, 2007.

The 2007 follow-up film, *It's Still Elementary!*, explores the context, creation, and impact of the original 1996 film. The producers of the film speak about the planning and creation, and teachers and students featured in the original film speak about the experience both in making *It's Elementary!* and their involvement with LGBT issues in the 10 years since the film was released.

Organizations

California Safe Schools Coalition

casafeschools.org

The California Safe Schools Coalition offers research briefs on school safety and bullying, school safety and academic achievement, guides for schools and school districts to support LGBT student safety, and supporting school safety through LGBT curriculum inclusion.

GLBT Caucus, National Education Association

www.nea-glbtc.org

The NEA-GLBTC participates in the development of NEA policies and activities, fosters communication among educators, students, and communities, and offers a four-module training, Safety, Bias, and GLBT Issues for school personnel.

Global Alliance for LGBT Education

lgbt-education.info

A formal partner with UNESCO, GALE is an international online learning community dedicated to the full inclusion of people disadvantaged because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. GALE currently supports the inclusion of LGBT issues in sexuality education and bullying strategies in cooperation with UNESCO and has pilot projects in developing a toolkit to work with schools and an LGBT storytelling/peer-education program and toolkit.

GLSEN

glsen.org

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) is perhaps best known for the Day of Silence and the National School Climate Survey. The Day of Silence an annual youth-led event intended to raise awareness of the often silenced voices of LGBT youth. The National School Climate Survey is a biennial report on the experiences of LGBT students in schools across the U.S. GLSEN further offers a network for K-12 educators, professional development, resources for LGBT education and curriculum inclusion, membership in local chapters, conferences and educator retreats.

GSA Network

gsanetwork.org

Based in California, the Gay-Straight Alliance Network is a youth-led organization which connects GSAs across the state. The GSA Network website offers a wealth of resources for students, educators, and GSA advisors, including research and reports, posters and exhibits, and resources to support LGBT curriculum inclusion.

QuERI

queeringeducation.org

QuERI, the Queering Education Research Institute is currently housed at Hunter College, CUNY. QuERI is a research and training center dedicated to bridging the gap between research and practice in improving the school experiences of LGBTQ students. QuERI supports research in LGBTQ education, offers training and professional development, and conducts school outreach programs.

Queer Special Interest Group, American Educational Research Association

sites.google.com/site/queersig/home

The AERA Queer SIG aims to foster educational research relating to LGBTQ issues and offer a network for individuals and organizations conducting or supporting such research. The Queer SIG hosts sessions at the AERA annual meeting, other special events and online networking opportunities, and offers awards for educational research related to LGBTQ topics.

Trans Student Educational Resources

transstudent.org

Trans Student Educational Resources (TSER) is “a youth-led organization dedicated to transforming the educational environment for trans and gender nonconforming students through advocacy and empowerment.” TSER offers trainings for teachers, speaks at conferences, provides leadership training for trans youth, and publishes great materials and infographics related to trans issues.

YouthResource

YouthResource.org

YouthResource, hosted by Advocates for Youth, is written by and for LGBTQ youth and takes a holistic approach to sexual health and other issues of concern to LGBTQ youth, by providing information and offer support through education and advocacy.