

# Why Does It Matter?

LGBTQ+ students are at higher risk of experiencing violence and homelessness than their non-LGBTQ+ peers according to a study (1). Thus, *attending an educational institution that is supportive of their sexuality and gender identity is crucial for their post-secondary educational attainment.*

## LGBTQ+ College Access



### What Are Some Resources for LGBTQ+ Students?

- **LGBTQA+ Resource Center at MSU**

(<https://lbgtrc.msu.edu/>)

A collaborative initiative to enhance campus climate and support services for students marginalized by their sexuality or gender. Some support services within the resource center for students to participate are discussion groups, LGBTQ student organizations, First-Year Experience Program, and a LGBTQ library.

- **Salus Center** (<https://saluscenter.org>)

Salus Center serves Lansing's LGBTQIA+ communities as a gathering space and information hub, and we advocate for the rights of our community members by honoring and affirming the interconnectedness of oppression. We empower you to build on the legacy of LGBTQIA+ activism and manifest a life that is authentic, safe, and full.

- **Academic Success Coaches at LCC**

([https://www.lcc.edu/aa/success\\_coaches/](https://www.lcc.edu/aa/success_coaches/))

Available to all LCC students to support student navigation of campus resources, academic support, and other inquiries students might have.

- **PRISM at LCC** (<http://prism.openlcc.net/>)

Educates, supports, and empowers LCC staff members to establish and maintain a safe and inclusive environment on campus. If you are a staff member at LCC and wish to participate, visit their website for more information.

### How Can Schools Help?

**Guidance Counselors** are often the first stop for LGBTQ+ youth to seek support, whether it is the violence they face at school or at home.

Another way to support LGBTQ+ students is by supporting the school's **Gay Straight Alliance Club (GSA)**.

The GSA is *a student-run club in a high school or middle school that brings together LGBTQIA+ and straight students to support each other, provide a safe place to socialize, and create a platform to fight for racial, gender, LGBTQIA+, and economic justice.* GSA clubs can be named a different name but are associated or registered as a GSA. Check with your guidance counselor to see if you have a GSA in your school.

### What Colleges Are The Most Accepting?

**Campus Pride** ([www.campuspride.org](http://www.campuspride.org)) is a resource for LGBTQ+ students to research how accepting and supportive a higher educational institution is based on 8 key categories:

1. LGBTQ Policy Inclusion
2. LGBTQ Support & Institutional Commitment
3. LGBTQ Academic Life
4. LGBTQ Student Life
5. LGBTQ Housing
6. LGBTQ Campus Safety
7. LGBTQ Counseling & Health
8. LGBTQ Recruitment & Retention Efforts

(1) Jones, Carolyn (2018, April 25) *Abuse, violence common among LGBT homeless youth, study finds.* Ed Source: Highlighting Strategies for Student Success. <https://edsources.org/2018/abuse-violence-common-among-lgbt-homeless-youth-study-finds/596734>.