

October 2020

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New CDC and GLSEN Data Point to Crisis Among LGBTQ Youth

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation and 23 of its Project THRIVE partners, including ASCA, released a [joint statement](#) this week on the importance of youth-serving professionals providing LGBTQ youth the support they need to thrive. The statement is in response to the HRC Foundation's analysis of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance \(YRBS\) data](#), which finds that many LGBTQ youth are living in crisis.

Among the [findings](#):

- 31% of LGBTQ youth, 43% of transgender youth and 40% of questioning youth have been bullied at school, compared with 16% of their non-LGBTQ peers.
- 24% of LGBTQ youth, 35% of transgender youth and 41% of questioning youth have skipped school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to school, compared with 8% of non-LGBTQ youth.
- 65% of LGBTQ youth, 55% of transgender youth, 63% of LGBTQ youth of color and 63% of questioning youth mostly earn A's and B's in school, compared with 78% of non-LGBTQ youth
- 35% of LGBTQ youth, 45% of transgender youth and 40% of questioning youth have seriously considered attempting suicide, compared with 13% of non-LGBTQ youth.



The Project Thrive partners have created a valuable checklist to assist youth-serving professionals in supporting



Upcoming ASCA Webinars

[Group Activities to End Bullying](#), Oct. 22, 4 p.m. EDT
[Prevention Education in the New Normal](#), Oct. 27, 2 p.m. EDT

LGBTQ youth. The checklist provides guidance for creating safe and inclusive environments. [Learn more here.](#)

GLSEN has also just released its [National School Climate Survey](#), which reports similar findings. For example, most LGBTQ students reported avoiding school functions (78%) and extracurricular activities (72%) because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable. And 26% of LGBTQ students report being physically harassed based on sexual orientation. Access the [executive summary here.](#)

[Connect students to innovation through the STEM Careers Coalition](#)



2021 School Counselor of the Year finalists announced:

Congratulations to the five finalists for #SCOY21: Vanessa Barnes, Millbrook Magnet High School, Raleigh, N.C.; Megan Bledsoe, Discovery Middle School, Vancouver, Wash.; Olivia Carter, Jefferson Elementary School, Cape Girardeau, Mo.; Sarah Flier, Willow River Elementary School, Hudson, Wis.; and Barbara Truluck, Palmer Middle School, Kennesaw, Ga. [Read more.](#)

October is National Bullying Prevention

Month: One of every five students reports being bullied during the school year. Online, the percentage of individuals who have experienced cyberbullying has nearly doubled in the last decade. National Bullying Prevention Month, which was initiated by PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center to raise awareness about the devastating and often long-term effects that bullying can cause in our nation's

youth. This month-long campaign unites individuals with the powerful message that bullying should never be a part of childhood. There are many ways to be involved during National Bullying Prevention Month, such as wearing and sharing orange on Unity Day, Wednesday, Oct. 21, to send a unified message of hope and support to those who experience bullying. [Learn more.](#)



Tune in for Laura Ross Oct. 20 on PBS: To address some of the most pressing mental health issues youth are struggling with right now, Well Beings and PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs will host *Teens, COVID and Coping*, a panel conversation featuring psychologist Dr. Lisa Damour, the author of "Under Pressure" and "Untangled" and *New York Times* contributing columnist, alongside teens and educators, including 2020 School Counselor of the Year Laura Ross. Moderated by PBS NewsHour senior national correspondent Amna Nawaz, the

conversation will offer insight into how peers, parents and teachers can help young people struggling in this moment. [Join the livestream](#) on Oct. 20 at 8 p.m. EDT.

Apply to be a Department of Education School Ambassador: The U.S. Department of Education's School Ambassador Fellowship is designed to support the department's efforts in improving educational outcomes for students and families by involving school-based stakeholders in the development and implementation of national education policy. The School Ambassador Fellowship is a one-year professional learning community. Throughout their fellowship year, School Ambassador Fellows will share perspectives from the field that ultimately inform educational decisions at the national level, work alongside department officials as a full-time member of the Department of Education community or continue working within your school and collaborate on a part-time basis, and facilitate meaningful interactions between national policy-makers and educators in the field. To apply for the 2021-2022 School Ambassador Fellowship, [visit the online application portal](#). The deadline to apply is Jan. 11, 2021.

Support for students with learning disabilities and attention disorders: The National Center for Learning Disabilities has created a new interactive tool, The LD Checklist: Recognize and Respond, which helps caregivers determine whether a child is at risk for or shows signs of having learning disabilities. [Access it here](#).

Research studies that need your participation: [Enhancing the Principal-School Counselor Relationship](#), conducted by ASCA, NASSP and College Board. [Identifying, Assessing and Managing Threatening or Concerning Behavior in School](#), researcher Jourdan Jackson, graduate student, Simon Fraser University.

Bring your own coffee to USAF discussion: The Air Force Recruiting Service is launching a series of Virtual Educators Coffees to enable educators to learn how the Air Force recruits, trains, educates and employs service members. Register for the Oct. 29 event, "What to expect at U.S. Air Force basic military training," [here](#). Register for the Nov. 19 event, "What benefits does the U.S. Air Force offer?" [here](#).

Students can win some cash and hand washing dispensers for your school: SC Johnson's Happy Hands Contest offers an opportunity to educate students on the importance of hand washing while also allowing them to create an original design for an SC Johnson hand soap dispenser. The winning design gets 1,000 dispensers and a \$1,000 award for their school, plus a \$300 gift card for the student. [Learn more here](#).

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