



A History of California Legislation Related to LGBTQ Youth

GSA Network is proud of the history of advocacy work by LGBTQ and straight ally youth and their adult allies in California to pass laws creating safer schools for all students.

2009 - SB 572 – Harvey Milk Day Bill

- **Status:** Passed
- **Summary:** Requires the Governor to annually proclaim May 22 as Harvey Milk Day, a day of special recognition in California, and encourages public schools and educational institutions to conduct suitable commemorative exercises on that date.

SB 543 – Mental Health Services for At-Risk Youth

- **Status:** Pending
- **Summary:** This bill would permit youth ages 12-17 to consent to mental health treatment without parental permission if the attending professional believes the youth is mature enough to make the decision or if the youth would present a danger of serious physical or mental harm to self and others without the services. Current parental consent requirements for mental health services create a barrier to treatment that is especially harmful to LGBT youth who may be put at risk of emotional or physical abuse by coming out to their parents prematurely or without support.

2008 - AB 2567 – Harvey Milk Day Bill

- **Status:** Vetoed
- **Summary:** Would have required the Governor to annually proclaim May 22 as Harvey Milk Day, and would encourage public schools and educational institutions to conduct suitable commemorative exercises on that date.

AB 3015 – Foster Youth School Safety Education

- **Status:** Passed
- **Summary:** Requires that existing training programs for foster youth, foster youth group homes, child welfare personnel, foster parents, and relative caregivers, include information on current school safety laws that protect students from bias-motivated harassment and discrimination.

2007 - SB 777 – Students Civil Rights Act

- **Status:** Passed
- **Summary:** Creates uniform nondiscrimination standards throughout California Education Code, clarifying and making sure that all non-discrimination standards for all schools and educational programs that receive state funding are consistent.

AB 394 – Safe Place to Learn Act

- **Status:** Passed

- **Summary:** Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to regularly monitor school districts' complaint process procedures and whether or not school districts have adopted, posted, and publicized district anti-discrimination policies that include the same protected categories as the Education Code, including the categories of sexual orientation and gender identity. Also requires the CDE to create a model handout explaining to district staff & faculty their responsibilities to protect students from harassment and discrimination and post it on relevant department websites. Additionally, requires the CDE to make available to school districts information about curricula, training, and other resources schools can use to prevent harassment and discrimination.

2006 - SB 1437 – Bias-Free Curriculum Act

- **Status:** Vetoed
- **Summary:** Would have prohibited textbooks, classroom materials, and instruction from reflecting adversely on LGBTQ people.

AB 606 – Safe Place to Learn Act

- **Status:** Vetoed
- **Summary:** Suggested specific steps for school districts to comply with California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000. Reaffirmed that funds could be withheld from school districts found out of compliance with the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000.

2003 - SB 71 – California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Act

- **Status:** Passed
- **Summary:** Requires sexual health education to be more inclusive of healthy attitudes regarding gender, sexual orientation, dating, marriage, family, and body image. Requires materials and instruction to be medically accurate, age appropriate, objective and not based on religious doctrine. Removes “abstinence until marriage” from curriculum in order to provide young people with the skills necessary to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Requires that school districts adopt an “opt out” policy in regards to sexual health education (instead of an “opt in” policy).

1999 - AB 537 – California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000

- **Status:** Passed
- **Summary:** Added actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender (including gender identity and gender-related appearance and behavior) to the California Education Code non-discrimination policy.