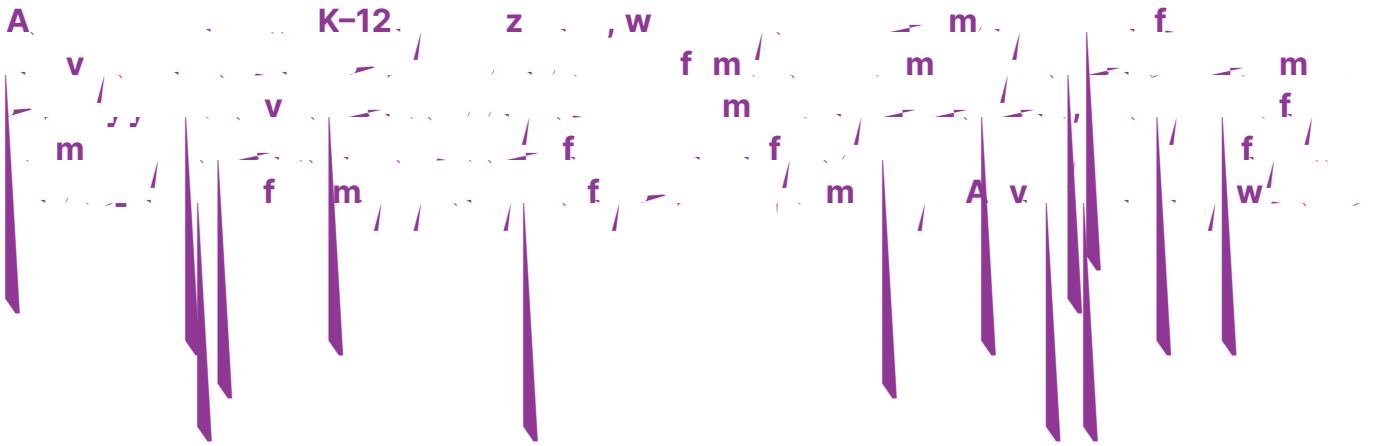


GLSEN



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Solidarity work happens in many forms and on many different issues.

The important part of understanding solidarity work is that collective action is powerful in enacting change. In fact, solidarity can either be the biggest threat to oppression or one of the biggest enablers in upholding and reinforcing it. How you show up, or don't, makes all the difference.

How do I tell my students about solidarity?

Even the youngest elementary students can begin conversations about solidarity and discuss the concept that injustice or unfair treatment to one is injustice to all. Elementary students are often already thinking about fairness and right and wrong, and are interested in learning about the world and how it runs. Talking about equity vs. equality, and how not everyone has the same needs can help young students to better work together in diverse groups. When having conversations about solidarity, it's helpful to point to a school's mission or respectful classroom rules. For example, "Our school mission is [or in this classroom, we want] to affirm and accept the full identities of all people. Part of our identity is who we love and who we are. We act in solidarity with all kinds of families, especially those not treated fairly because of who they love. We act in solidarity with all people, no matter what their gender is, how they look, or how they dress."

What is LGBTQ+ solidarity?

GLSEN's Solidarity Week focuses on advocacy actions for LGBTQ+ youth, who face disproportionate bullying,

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What happens during Solidarity Week?

During Solidarity Week, students and educators organize activities at school that focus on encouraging and enhancing solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, in their school and beyond. GLSEN recommends using activities from our [Solidarity Week Toolkit](#) to begin essential conversations that build practices of solidarity. Elementary

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This year, Solidarity Week occurs on November 7-11, 2022. Our GSA would like to [do a presentation at the faculty meeting, host a screening of a free film offered by GLSEN for students or families, share about solidarity tips and actions at the morning meeting announcements, facilitate a discussion about what LGBTQ+ students need at our school]. As an educator, I'd like to [teach LGBTQ+ inclusive lessons, let my families know about this week, host a screening free film, and/or invite other students to our GSA meeting].

Solidarity Week is most effective as a school-wide initiative to begin the year with LGBTQ+ visibility and affirmation. I am happy to help organize a whole-school assembly for Solidarity Week so that all of our students have a chance to participate in this national program.

Please let me know if you would like to set up a meeting with me [and my students] to discuss these plans more, or if there is any other information you need.

Thank you!

[Name]

Solidarity Week Letter for Families

Dear Families,

This year, we will be participating with GLSEN in Solidarity Week, a national celebration of LGBTQ+ students and families. We are excited to have you join us in this important work. We will be participating with GLSEN in Solidarity Week, a national celebration of LGBTQ+ students and families. We are excited to have you join us in this important work.

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How do I Prepare for Solidarity Week?

1) Do the internal work


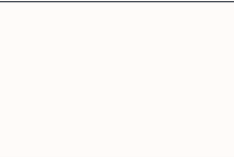
As we engage in solidarity work, it is important to understand and acknowledge your own privileges. When you are aware of the privileges you bring into different spaces (it might shift depending on the folks in the room) you can better understand the experiences of those who do not have the same privileges.

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For example, below is a selection of resources focused on specific communities:



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	<p>F. K. Vaughan, M. M. Amador: Great for first through third grades, this bilingual picture book tells the story of Danny, who aspires to be a princess for the school parade. From School Library Journal: "This inclusive bilingual picture book belongs in public and school libraries."</p> <p>Vaughan, M. M. Amador, M. M. Amador: Selected for the American Library Association's 2019 Rainbow List, this bilingual picture book is great for 2nd-3rd grade readers.</p>
	<p>Placeholder for a second book description</p>

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Administrators or Equity Officers could host a Coffee and Questions open time for families who would like to learn more about the week, the programming that will happen, and ways that LGBTQ+ visibility supports student growth and learning, and is aligned with the mission or vision of the school.

Solidarity Week Actions for Educators

As an educator, you have the opportunity to bring actions of solidarity into your classroom to focus on the LGBTQ+ students, educators, and families in your school community.

Here are some actions you can take throughout the week, and beyond:

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4) Teach LGBTQ+-inclusive lessons

Bringing in positive representations of LGBTQ+ people, issues, and history into your practice is a valuable support for any educator. You can find recommended Book Lists and an [video](#) and [Reflection Guide](#) on our Inclusive Curriculum page, and more lessons in our [video](#). Solidarity Week is a great time to start teaching about gender and to ensure that your family studies are LGBTQ+-inclusive. Additionally, find lesson plans for Rainbow Library books on the [video](#).

5) Invite in guest speakers

Solidarity Week is a great time for students to practice learning by listening. Inviting out LGBTQ+ administrators, faculty, staff, families or students (with family permission) to speak to your class can be a valuable way to celebrate. Have them share what they need to feel safe, affirmed, and respected at school. Have your students write thank you notes to any guest speakers including actions they will take to show solidarity with them.

6) Solidarity Selfie #SolidarityWeek

Join thousands of students and educators across the country in sharing how you practice solidarity.

Take a selfie or photo and add this comment to your post: Solidarity for my identity means _____ " and I practice and engage in solidarity by _____

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