

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

### **1. Stop name-calling and verbal harassment. Consistent intervention is key to establishing a school environment where all students feel safe and respected.**

- Do not ignore the incident by allowing your own fear and uncertainty to get in the way. Remember, your students count on you to keep them safe.
- An effective intervention consists of stopping the behavior and educating those involved as to why the behavior is not acceptable.

### **2. Set a standard in your classroom by creating classroom “rules.”**

- Specifically list the types of verbal harassment that will not be tolerated, being sure to include slurs against a student’s real or perceived sexual orientation. Leaving out this category conveys to students that harassment against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth is acceptable.
- Set up a policy to enforce the classroom “rules.” Let students know what will happen if they violate the rules and be sure to follow through on enforcement.

### **3. Check in with the student being harassed or bullied**

- Let the student know that you are aware of what is happening and offer support.
- Inform the student being harassed on your school’s procedures for filing harassment or discrimination complaints.

### **4. Encourage the development of gay-straight alliances for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and straight students who want make their school a safer**

**place for the entire school community.**

- Educate the entire staff and faculty on the definition and purpose of a gay straight alliance, and how the establishment of such a club helps make schools safer for all students.

