

New Online LGBTQ+ Student Support Module Series

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning) students, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) students, and especially those students who live at the intersection of those identities, experience significant disparities compared to their peers. The latest national and state data show a mental health crisis as a result of a lack of support (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnzpA5v75go>) for these students.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has created new, short videos which focus on key areas for increasing LGBTQ+ student support knowledge. Developed by DPI staff in collaboration with GSAFE, each module addresses a frequently requested topic. Individuals or groups can utilize these modules for staff professional development, to watch together or separately and then discuss individual learning, also as a support to wearing an Out for Safe Schools badge.

Out for Safe Schools badges are:

- A way to identify an adult ready to talk about LGBTQ+ issues
- A source of information for adults and youth
- The size of an employee or student ID to be worn on a lanyard

Badges are free and can be requested by contacting the DPI via email .

The newly-available modules cover LGBTQ+ concepts, YRBS data, best practices, and more. These short modules are encouraged for staff viewing and discussion for wearing the badges.


<https://media.dpi.wi.gov/sspw/av/lgbtq-student-support-basic-concepts/index.html#/>

This module focuses on big concepts and some vocabulary, but mostly concepts. These are basic building blocks to understanding LGBTQ+ students and their identities. This module will also cover how to ask questions when you don't understand the terms and concepts being shared or discussed.

<https://media.dpi.wi.gov/sspw/av/lgbtq-student-support-best-practices/index.html#/>

This module discusses simple, proven ways to support LGBTQ+ students. These best practices are based on their presence aligning with better outcomes for students. This module will also include a few approaches to avoid.

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 is National Coming Out day. Even staff who have previously served as resources and support for LGBTQ+ families and students can find helpful information in these new modules.

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