



OUTRIGHTVERMONT

Safe Schools Report Card 2009

Outright Vermont's 2009 Safe Schools Report Card is a resource which allows youth, parents, teachers and administrators to review efforts taking place to improve school climates and eliminate bullying and harassment in Vermont schools.

According to the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 34% of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ) students in Vermont (grades 8–12) reported being harassed or bullied in the past 30 days. This number was more than double the rate of bullying or harassment (15%) identified by straight students.

In 2009, Outright surveyed all 61 public high schools in Vermont to measure their support of LGBTQQ youth. Among the most important factors surveyed was the presence of peer-based support groups, in particular GSAs, which studies show improve the overall climate for all students and provide needed support for LGBTQQ youth.

The Report Card also asked about access to gender-neutral bathrooms. The availability of one-stall unisex bathrooms is important for many students and their presence improves the educational climate for students who might otherwise wait until they get home.

Lastly, the survey notes if schools track bullying and if they have a "bullying program" for the school. All sources for bullying presentations were surveyed, including Outright and other programs or presenters.

Please note: By law, bullying on the basis of a protected class (such as gender identity, sex or sexual orientation) is referred to as harassment. Also, Vermont law does not currently mandate anti-bullying presentations for students; it mandates education for all teachers.

Outright Vermont is Vermont's Queer Youth Center and Statewide Advocacy Organization. More information is available at: www.outrightvt.org

3 Key Findings

- Vermont schools are among the best—with even more potential to be better. Schools are listening to the needs of students and progress is being made across the state.
- 28% of Vermont public high schools provide at least one gender-neutral bathroom in their school (17 of 61).
- 30% of Vermont public high schools have an active Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA), as well as two additional emerging GSAs in high schools and three inactive GSAs that are reaching out to students.

Vermont's Top Ranked Schools for LGBTQQ Students

High School	Gay/Straight Alliance	Tracks Bullying	Anti-Bullying Program	Gender-Neutral Bathroom(s)	Ranking
BFA St. Albans	●	●	●	●	✓+
Burlington	●	●	●	●	✓+
Champlain Valley Union	●	●	●	●	✓+
Middlebury Union	●	●	●	●	✓+
Milton High School	●	●	●	●	✓+
Montpelier	●	●	●	●	✓+
Mt. Abraham Union	●	●	●	●	✓+
Proctor Junior/Senior	●	●	●	●	✓+
South Burlington	●	●	●	●	✓+
Vergennes Union	●	●	●	●	✓+

Honorable Mentions (by County)

High School	Gay/Straight Alliance	Tracks Bullying	Anti-Bullying Program	Gender-Neutral Bathroom(s)	Ranking
Missisquoi Valley Union (Franklin)	●	●		●	✓
BFA Fairfax (Franklin)	●	●	●		✓
Brattleboro Union (Windham)	●	●	●		✓
Enosburg Falls (Franklin)	●	●	●		✓
Essex High School (Chittenden)	●	●	●		✓
U32 High School (Washington)	●	●	●		✓
Leland & Gray Union (Windham)		●	●	●	✓
Northfield Middle/High (Washington)		●	●	●	✓
Otter Valley Union (Rutland)		●	●	●	✓
South Royalton (Windsor)		●	●	●	✓
The Danville School (Caledonia)		●	●	●	✓
Whitcomb (Windsor)		●	●	●	✓
Winooski High School (Chittenden)		●	●	●	✓