

## LEARN IF GLSEN IS IN YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL:

National advocacy groups such as the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) promote materials, lesson plans, and classroom activities that reveal a radical agenda. Students are told to discuss definitions of terms such as "Butch," "Femme," "Drag King/Queen," and "Genderqueer." Students are also instructed on sexual reassignment surgery and hormone treatments and encouraged to advocate for gender-neutral bathrooms and locker rooms.

GLSEN also encourages the formation of "Gay-Straight Alliances" (GSA's) in schools. These clubs recruit student members and have a faculty adviser, but routinely receive less scrutiny and more administration support than any conservative or Christian group on school campuses.

## ASK IF YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN THE "DAY OF SILENCE":

Every April, thousands of American students—some as young as 12—participate in a "Day of Silence" when they will refuse to utter a single word, not even in response to a teacher's question, in recognition of so-called discrimination and harassment experienced by GLBT people. Many students will wear t-shirts and hand out "speaking cards," and some schools hold follow-up events, called "Breaking the Silence," to reinforce the message that "homophobia" will not be tolerated. Although GLSEN claims the event is about tolerance and safety, the messages are extremely intolerant, permitting only one viewpoint to be expressed.

## ASK TO SEE YOUR CHILD'S TEXTBOOKS:

You have a right as a parent to know what books are available to students. The local school board must approve all curriculum based textbooks, but there are no such requirements for books found in classrooms or libraries.



## GET ACTIVE

- Volunteer in the classroom – You will get to know the other students, the teacher and the school environment.
- Volunteer in the library – Familiarize yourself with the library's collection.
- Be a part of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) / Organization (PTO).
- Join the school governance council – Every school is required to have a 'council,' and there are seats just for parents to have input into policy.
- Attend school committee meetings – Find out if members and school administrators share your values, and make sure your voice is heard.
- Become Active – Always attend "Back to School Night," open houses and parent-teacher conferences. Get familiar with the teacher, staff, and other parents as well.

## WHO WE ARE

**Massachusetts Family Institute** is dedicated to strengthening the family and the Judeo-Christian values upon which the family is based. For more than 20 years, MFI has been the leading voice for families across the Commonwealth through its non-profit research, education and public policy advocacy.

## A PARENT SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR

# BACK TO SCHOOL



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## CHECKLIST

- Know your basic rights as a parent.
- Ask to see your child's textbooks.
- Exercise your right to have your child "opt-out" from aggressive sex education.
- Do your local school committee members know that the new state guidelines on gender neutral bathrooms and locker rooms are NOT mandatory?
- Learn if there is a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) in your child's school.
- Ask if your child's school participates in the "Day of Silence".
- For more information and tips on becoming proactive in your child's education in the public schools, log on to:  
  
**[www.mafamily.org/back-2-school](http://www.mafamily.org/back-2-school)**
- Contact MFI if you find questionable materials in your school. We can help.

Email us at  
[info@mafamily.org](mailto:info@mafamily.org)

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### KNOW YOUR BASIC RIGHTS:

Students across the country are facing increased hostility and censorship while attempting to exercise their constitutionally protected religious beliefs. The following is a snapshot of rights your child *does* have in public school:

- The right to pray, read Scripture, distribute literature, and invite fellow students to participate, so long as it is voluntary, not disruptive or coercive and it occurs during non-instructional time.
- The right to express their religious views during class discussions or as a part of an assignment so long as the expression is relevant to the subject under consideration and otherwise meets the assignment requirements.
- Students may lawfully study and perform religious songs as a part of advancing the students' objective knowledge of society's cultural and religious heritage, or furthering the study of music if the school should choose to use religious songs as a part of the curriculum.
- Students may wear clothing or jewelry displaying religious messages to the extent that other messages are allowed.

### EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO HAVE YOUR CHILD 'OPT-OUT':

All Massachusetts public schools are required to notify parents when implementing or using curriculum that primarily involves human sexuality. Your child's school is required by law to make these materials reasonably available for your review. Parents have the right to opt their child out of any portion of human sexuality instruction by sending written notice to the school principal. *Mass Gen. Laws Chpt. 71, Section 32A*



### CAN BOYS AND GIRLS USE ANY BATHROOM THEY WANT?

In 2013, the MA Ed Dept. issued policy guidelines on "gender identity" for grades K-12 in all public schools. Teachers and administrators were told they must allow boys who 'identify' as girls to use the girls' "restroom, locker room, and changing facility;" and vice versa. MFI sounded the alarm, and the Dept. admitted the guidelines "are not a mandate." Local school districts are free to deal with this issue as they see best.

In 2014, new **Federal guidelines** were issued on Title IX that transgender activists claim give them access to opposite sex bathrooms, locker rooms, etc. in public schools. However, **no law requires** this and, to date, no court has ever ruled that such access is mandated by Title IX.

Permitting students to use opposite-sex restrooms would seriously endanger student privacy and safety, and undermine parental authority. Public schools may prohibit students from using opposite-sex bathrooms for safety reasons without violating Title IX.

### SEX-ED MANDATE & COMMON CORE

Two new movements threaten to take education decisions out of the hands of locally elected school committee members, parents, teachers and administrators in MA. Planned Parenthood of MA is pushing legislation that would force its sex-ed curriculum on students grades K-12 in every public school in the Commonwealth. Nationally, the Common Core movement is using the same tactics to dictate curriculum decisions on all subjects.

To learn more about these threats to school safety, parental rights and local control, visit the **Parent Resources** page on our website, [www.mafamily.org](http://www.mafamily.org).