

## Be Aware

- Seven-year-old "Patrick" told his father that some kids have two mommies or two daddies. His teacher had explained that homosexuality was normal and that he too might like other boys instead of girls.
- "Stacey," a sixth grader, accused her parents, "Why are you two bigots?" Her parents discovered that one of her teachers had woven into that day's lesson the validity of same-sex marriage, including the assertion that those who disagree are bigots.
- The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has been active in our schools for over 10 years, promoting homosexual-friendly curriculum and books like Heather has Two Mommies, and the upcoming King and King .
- A high school history textbook published by the University of Illinois tells students that the early Christians considered homosexuality normal, and that some church leaders probably engaged in homosexual relationships.
- The Massachusetts Department of Education website provides step-by-step instructions on how to found and maintain Gay-Straight Alliance chapters in our schools, including information on grants of up to \$5000 for schools seeking to start or enhance a GSA.



## Be Resourceful

Organizations that offer information on traditional marriage, parental rights, legal assistance, homosexual issues and same-sex marriage:

Family Research Council  
<http://www.frc.org>

Focus on the Family  
<http://www.family.org>

Medical Institute for Sexual Health  
<http://www.medinstitute.org>

Mission America  
<http://www.missionamerica.com>

Liberty Counsel  
<http://www.lc.org>

Concerned Women for America  
<http://www.cwfa.org>

Alliance Defense Fund  
<http://www.alliancedefensefund.org>

American Center for Law and Justice  
<http://www.aclj.org>

Human Rights Campaign  
<http://www.hrc.org>

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)  
<http://www.glsen.org>

The Massachusetts Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth  
<http://www.mass.gov/cgly/>

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)  
<http://www.siecus.com>



100 TadeCenter, Suite 625  
Woburn, MA 01801  
Ph (781) 569-0400 • Fax (781) 569-0472  
[www.mafamily.org](http://www.mafamily.org)

# Back to School

## A Parents' Guide

How same-sex marriage will affect your child's school



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Massachusetts Family Institute

## Be Prepared

### Prepare your child and ask what they are learning about in school

Same-sex marriage is now a reality in Massachusetts, and your child's education is at risk. With the recent court developments in our state, history, science and even math classes can promote homosexual ideals—including the normalization of same-sex marriage. When you send your child to school, make sure he or she is prepared.

- Reaffirm your values.
- Explain to your child that same-sex marriages are happening in Massachusetts and that this is contrary to traditional values.
- Encourage your child to tell you if a teacher or classmate talks about same-sex marriage.

Once the new school year is underway, ask your child what he or she is learning in class. Here are some sample questions:

- What has your teacher been reading to you?
- Has your teacher said anything that has made you feel strange or uncomfortable?
- Has the topic of same-sex marriage been discussed?
- How do you think your teacher feels about same-sex marriage?



## Be Proactive

### Approach your child's teacher, principal, and school committee

Be firm and direct. This is your child's education—you have a right to know what the school plans to teach. Some questions to ask:

- Are there plans to include same-sex marriage in the curriculum of any class?
- What textbooks will be used, and what other books are on this year's reading list?
- Will there be any guest speakers (including other teachers) in my child's class this year?
- What policies are in place allowing me to opt my child out of same-sex marriage instruction?



If you think there is a problem in your child's classroom, utilize your existing relationships with teachers and school leaders. Go to your child's teacher first, and if he or she does not work with you to resolve the situation, approach the school principal, the superintendent, and finally the school committee.

## Be Engaged

### Know your rights as a parent

Parents have a legal right to participate in their child's education. If it becomes necessary to approach school or legal authorities, keep in mind that:

- Massachusetts law states that parents are the primary educators of their children regarding health education and should play a substantial role in the design, development and implementation of programs and curriculum.
- All Massachusetts public schools are required to notify parents when implementing or using curriculum that primarily involves human sexuality.
- Parents have the right to opt their child out of any portion of human sexual instruction by sending written notice to the school principal.
- School committees have a great deal of authority over all areas of school administration. Parents should consider attending a meeting of the committee to address their concerns.

If you have been unable to reach a solution with the help of school officials, legal help is available. Please contact Massachusetts Family Institute at (781) 569-0400, or send an e-mail to [mafamilly@mafamilly.org](mailto:mafamilly@mafamilly.org).

### Support the "Opt-In Bill"

This proposed state legislation requires a parent to opt their child in to classes dealing with human sexuality, treating it as an elective, instead of the current system that requires parents to opt their children out. Now, if a parent does not expressly contact school officials, children are automatically included in such classes. See our website for a sample letter to your child's school at the beginning of the year, and contact your state legislators to support the opt-in measure.