

**PRYSM**  
**Programs and Resources for Young Sexual Minorities**  
A Program of the Oakland Unified School District

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**HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM FOR ADDRESSING  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY ISSUES**

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*Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the  
equal and inalienable rights of all members of the  
human family is the foundation of freedom, justice  
and peace in the world...*

Preamble  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

Developed by Barry Chersky, Consultant  
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**PRYSM-Programs and Resources for Young Sexual Minorities**  
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**Life Skills 2002-2003**  
**Oakland Unified School District**

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**SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY CURRICULUM OUTLINE**

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**TEACHER PRE-LESSON: ORIENTING YOURSELF TO THE ISSUE**

***Elements***

1. Guidelines for Using the Curriculum
2. Preparation Activities
3. Additional Reading

***Objectives***

- Become familiar with lessons and supplementary materials in the curriculum.
- Have increased confidence when discussing LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) issues in the classroom.
- Conduct a self-evaluation of non-biased behavior to reflect on internal prejudices.

**LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO LGBT ISSUES**

***Elements***

1. Brainstorm/Discussion (5 min)
2. Student Pre-test Survey (10 min)
3. Terminology Match-up (20 min)
4. OUSD Board Policy Review (10 min)
5. Debriefing (5 min)

***Objectives***

- Provide students with an opportunity to voice his/her thoughts.
- Establish a baseline to measure changes as a result of addressing this topic.
- Provide students with a positive and appropriate vocabulary for discussing LGBTQ issues.
- Clarify students' understanding of various terms and concepts regarding gender & sexuality.
- Become familiar with school policy regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

**LESSON 2: SHARED EXPERIENCES AND EMPATHY**

***Elements***

1. *Remember When* Exercise (30 min)
2. *Walk in Someone Else's Shoes* Exercise (15 min)
3. Debriefing (5 min)

***Objectives***

- Reflect upon the ways in which everyone experiences discrimination.
- Make connections between personal experiences and the experiences of others.
- Engage in an empathy building exercise designed to demonstrate the isolation that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students sometimes experience.

### LESSON 3: GAY RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS

#### **Elements**

1. Modern Gay History (10 min)
2. Gay Role Models Game (20 min)
3. Gay Rights as Human Rights (10 min)
4. Debriefing/Prepare for Panel (10 min)

#### **Objectives**

- Learn about sexual orientation as a civil rights issue with historical roots.
- Learn about positive gay, lesbian, and bisexual historical figures from the past and present.
- Engage in a human rights analysis.
- Make connections between students' personal freedom the freedom of others.

### LESSON 4: REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES

#### **Elements**

1. Introduce the Panel (5 min)
2. Panel Discussion (40 min)
3. Debriefing (5 min)

#### **Objectives**

- Have an opportunity to learn about the personal experiences of sexual minority youth.
- Have a forum to ask questions.
- Balance the common misperception that LGBTQ youth face only challenges by showing their victories as well.

### LESSON 5: SUMMARIZING LESSONS LEARNED

#### **Elements**

1. Student Role Play (15 min)
2. Student Writing Assignment (15 min)
3. Student Post-Test Survey (10 min)
4. Debriefing (10 min)

#### **Objectives**

- Summarize the lessons learned about LGBTQ people throughout the unit.
- Engage in role-plays to have students practice disrupting name-calling and slurs.
- Encourage critical thinking by having students summarize the Life Skills learned in the unit.

### RESOURCES

#### **Elements**

- OUSD Board Policy on Sexual Orientation
- Follow-up Activities
- LGBTQ Resources
- Related LGBTQ Reading
- Bibliography

#### **Objectives**

This section is meant to provide additional resources for teachers and other school site staff. Included in this section are a collection of community agencies and resources available to serve OUSD staff, students, and families.