

# What School Officials Should Know

## About Addressing Homosexuality in Public Schools

### *Clarification for Administrators and Educators*

“In our system, state-operated schools may not be enclaves of totalitarianism ... [and] students may not be regarded as closed-circuit recipients of only that which the State chooses to communicate. They may not be confined to the expression of those sentiments that are officially approved.”

— U.S. Supreme Court, *Tinker v. Des Moines* (1969)

This informational packet has been given to you by a student, parent or community citizen who is concerned about the increasing amounts of political pressure being applied to our nation’s K-12 public schools by national homosexual-advocacy groups.

Often this pressure is applied in the form of demands to create a safe environment for gay and lesbian students. Schools are told that if they do not ban “homophobic” and “anti-LGBT” (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) messages—as well as include positive statements about homosexuality in their policies, curriculum, books and during special events like the Day of Silence—they will face legally liability.

Unfortunately—while we agree that all students need and deserve protection—this type of one-sided and dogmatic approach could put schools in serious jeopardy of violating important constitutional principles and of denying youth freedom of access to valuable, fact-based information.

For this reason, we have compiled this information to offer clarification and a more balanced perspective for school officials. This is just one component of a much larger packet that can be found at [www.truetolerance.org](http://www.truetolerance.org)

For more information regarding specific legal principles involved in addressing homosexuality in public schools, in addition to relevant legal cases, we highly encourage you to visit this Web site and download the *Legal Memorandum* from the Alliance Defense Fund, as well as other helpful information and tools.

This packet contains the following components:

- Letter from Alan Sears, President, CEO and General Counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund
- Unsubstantiated Claims Made by Homosexual Advocacy Groups, addressing inaccuracies in GLSEN’s *Just the Facts* primer. (Compiled by Focus on the Family and Exodus International).

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