

SACSC Youth Action

Creating Safe and Caring Schools and Communities for LGBTQ Youth

Safe and Caring Youth Action

The Youth Action projects provide an opportunity within the school for youth to identify and address specific issues and interests. Youth participants conduct research among their peers and then develop, undertake and evaluate projects that address the issues/interests they uncover.

Dealing with Homophobia Focus

For schools that choose to focus on homophobia, the student research and projects will focus on increasing awareness and understanding of LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer) issues within their school and community. The main purpose of this youth action project is to encourage appreciation of sexual diversity while addressing the violence, bullying and harassment that is associated with homophobia.

What Will Students Learn?

Through collaboration with one another and Youth Understanding Youth (YUY), Edmonton's community-based volunteer social/support group for LGBTQ youth under the age of twenty-five, the students will:

- increase their awareness of LGBTQ issues within their school and community;
- learn how homophobia impacts their school and community; and
- discover the positive impact that their actions can have on their school and community.

For additional information on the Youth Action process, please consult the brochure, available from the website: www.sacsc.ca/Resources_School.htm#implementation.

The Youth Action programming was developed in part through the project *Dealing with Homophobia Phase II: Expansion, Evaluation and Promotion of Phase I Resources*. Funded by the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC), this project was a partnership between the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities, the Alberta Teachers' Association, Youth Understanding Youth, the pilot schools and other volunteers.

Homophobic harassment and violence in schools is pervasive and nationwide. A study conducted by the McCreary Centre Society in British Columbia found that during the 1999 school year, 63% of LGBT students were verbally abused, 34% had been threatened with violence and 17% reported being physically assaulted.