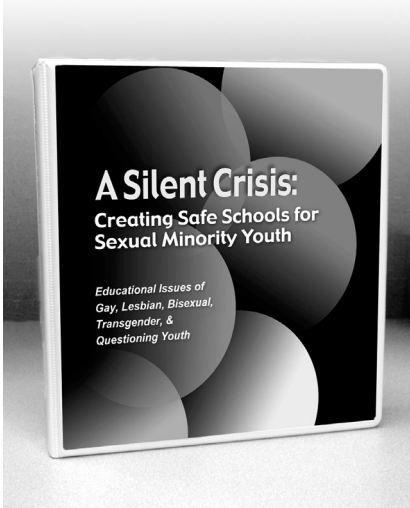


A Silent Crisis: Creating Safe Schools for Sexual Minority Youth

Revised and
Updated for 2005!



The Safe School for Sexual Minority Youth Project

Many educators and administrators in school districts throughout Michigan requested information and technical assistance to help them create school environments that are physically and emotionally safe for all students including sexual minority students (e.g., gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning). Schools throughout Michigan and the nation have struggled to develop policies and train staff and students to support safe and “bully-free” environments that are conducive to students learning. This project was initiated as a direct response to school district requests.

The A Silent Crisis: Creating Safe Schools for Sexual Minority Youth

resource guide includes a wealth of information for teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, and other professionals who want to learn more about issues related to safe schools for sexual minority youth. The guide was produced and compiled by Calhoun Intermediate School District in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Education with the guidance of the Safe Schools for Sexual Minority Youth workgroup.

Place your credit card order online at www.emc.cmich.edu/products/misc/silentcrisis.htm or complete this order form and fax it to 989-774-3943 or mail it to address indicated below.

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What Education and Community Leaders Say About the Project

As educators we must be committed to address all issues that impact the health, safety, and educational needs of our children. I applaud the work group for their efforts in developing "A Silent Crisis: Creating Safe Schools for Sexual Minority Youth." This resource guide is an invaluable tool for educators as they work to create safe and supportive school environments for all students including sexual minority youth.

Thomas D. Watkins, Jr.
Former Superintendent of Public Instruction
Michigan Department of Education
Lansing, MI

"A Silent Crisis" was a very worthwhile workshop – actually one of the few in many years to be immediately relevant to my daily work. I discovered resources I didn't know about and was able to use the materials and information with colleagues and students.

Michelle Bean, MSW
School Social Worker
Fitzgerald High School
Warren, MI

When I signed up for the "Silent Crisis" seminar, I wasn't sure what to expect. What I got was a very informative day. I learned some amazing statistics on how many students may be affected by the "silent crisis." I learned about the situations these students face on a daily basis and, most importantly, I learned about the legal responsibility of the school district to provide a safe learning environment for these students. As a school board member, it is part of my responsibilities to set the policies to ensure that the schools are safe for ALL students.

The information learned, the resource manual received, and the contacts made have already been put to use at least two times in situations that have come up in our school district within the past six weeks. It was a very beneficial day for both me, personally, and for the district through the information I was able to bring back and share.

Bonnie B. Reemsnyder
Board Member
Pottersville Public Schools
Pottersville, MI

"A Silent Crisis" training provided critical information and skills to help educators, administrators, and board members deal more effectively with the issue of school safety for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. This training is a must for school districts throughout Michigan. The issue of safe schools needs to be addressed at the policy level in order to effect and sustain change.

Susan Corbin
Former Board Member
Okemos Public Schools
Okemos, MI

"A Silent Crisis" gave a remarkable look into the issues specifically facing the educational system and sexual minority youth. It also provided a useful insight into the general issues that face any institution, such as law enforcement, that works within the educational setting.

Martin Underhill, MA
Chief of Police
Grand Ledge, MI

The resource manual for "A Silent Crisis" is superb. It offers vital information in an easy to find format. Every educator needs this timely manual to deal with this ever-growing concern. These kids need and deserve our help.

Ben Walker, MA, CPC
Director
Arts Academy in the Woods
Warren, MI

I want to thank the Michigan Department of Education in their advocacy for safe schools for all of their students. As a physician who takes care of adolescents, I have witnessed the consequences of harassment of sexual minority youth at our schools including depression, suicidal behavior, school drop out, drug and alcohol use, and sexual risk taking. This resource guide and training will save the lives and futures of many of our marginalized youth.

Kathryn Wright, DO
Medical Director, Horizons Project
Adolescent HIV Program
Children's Hospital of Michigan
Detroit, MI