

Meeting 3 ...

Peer and School Relationships

Goals: To help attendees discuss and process their peer relationships through the school, positive and negative. Also discuss relationships with faculty, staff, and administration. To provide support to those who have few positive peer interactions at school.

Icebreaker 1: Have each attendee write out one positive and one negative peer interaction at school recently.

Icebreaker 2: Have each attendee write out one positive and one negative faculty/staff/admin interaction at school recently.

Suggested Activities

- Let those who want to share their positive/negative experiences with the group do so, and encourage them to talk about how the interactions made them feel. Discuss the current school climate, and ways to improve it, and how to avoid the negative people/spaces. Acknowledge that this is a very difficult topic, and provide support to all group members who need it.
- For instance, students who wish to come out might ask about the coming-out experiences of other members - what feelings arose during, and after, and the reactions they received from peers and others.
- Allies can discuss how to be supportive of LGBTQ+ students in the greater school environment. Students who choose not to share can benefit from knowing that they are not alone in feelings of isolation at school.

Tips

- Come up with a list of things faculty and staff allies can do to show visible support; ask the faculty advisor to distribute that list.
- If instances that violate school policy, such as bullying, are discussed during the meeting, be prepared to take the issue to administration. Even if involved students do not want their names mentioned, administrators should be aware of what is occurring in the school in order to be more proactive at stopping it.
- Provide a list of local LGBTQ+ non-school peer resources, such as PFLAG/Rainbow Youth groups.