

Challenges & Experiences of LGBTQIA+ Students

Discrimination & Mental Health:

- Individuals who identify themselves as a part of the LGBTQ community can face unique experiences such as coming out, interpersonal violence, family issues, and discrimination on various levels. This prejudice can have adverse effects on their mental health leading to feelings of anxiety or depression.

Campus Climate & Support:

- Some institutions may lack policies that feel inclusive and promote non-discrimination, which can lead to LGBTQ+ students feeling isolated without such support systems.

Legal Challenges:

- Book Bans
 - There are various restrictions for books, particularly LGBTQ+ books in schools, colleges, and public libraries, increasingly so due to certain concerns over censorship and this can be seen as an infringement on individual's rights and targeting certain communities such as the POC or LGBTQIA+ community.
- Transgender Protections
 - Supreme Court preventing expansion of Title IX protections.

Disparities in Academic Success:

- LGBTQ+ students may experience higher levels of discrimination and harassment, which can affect their overall well-being, feelings of connection to others, and decreased academic performance.

Challenges of People of Color (POC) Within the LGBTQ+ Community

AANHPI Communities: For Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians, strong cultural values centered on family and community can make coming out more difficult. Many faces additional challenges due to stereotyping, racism, and cultural expectations, which can affect their sense of belonging and academic achievement.

Black LGBTQ+ Individuals: Black queer individuals experience intersectional discrimination, facing biases related to both their racial/ethnic background and LGBTQ+ identity.

Promoting Inclusion: Addressing these disparities requires inclusive policies, strong support systems, and increased awareness to ensure all LGBTQ+ individuals have equitable opportunities and a sense of community.

Click Here to see “[Mental Health Resources for Marginalized Communities](#)”

Challenges of Neurodivergent LGBTQIA+ Students

- Face overlapping stigma related to both identity and neurodivergence, increasing isolation.
- May encounter barriers to accessing resources due to sensory needs or lack of staff training.
- At higher risk for anxiety, depression, and victimization (Trevor Project, 2022)

Information Based on External Sources: [Affordable Colleges Online](#), [Higher Ed Today](#), [William’s Institute](#), [American Progress](#), [Point Foundation](#), [The Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People with Disabilities | The Trevor Project](#), [Supporting Neurodivergent Students in the Classroom | Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning | Brown University](#), and [HRC](#). Last Updated 09/03/2025