

## **Increasing the Capacity of School Health Professionals to Address LGBTQ Student Bullying**

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Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) students experience significant bullying that undermines their mental and physical health. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and the American Public Health Association have called for the development of innovative strategies to address bullying of LGBTQ youth. School health professionals (i.e., school nurses, psychologists, social workers, guidance counselors, adjustment counselors) are vital to promoting safe school environments; however, few evidence-based interventions exist to increase the capacity of these school personnel to address LGBTQ bullying. The proposed project will fill this critical gap and utilize technology-infused methods to ensure transportability of findings. An academic-community partnership model will join Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and The Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students, which is an anti-bullying initiative of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth. The multi-phase project will develop and pilot test an intervention to increase the capacity of school health professionals to prevent, identify, and address bullying of LGBTQ students, particularly of multi-ethnic and transgender students. A Youth & Community Advisory will be convened to guide all aspects of the project. Formative mixed-methods research will be conducted with key stakeholders across the Commonwealth to inform the intervention, followed by developing and piloting the intervention. This community-engaged participatory project will lay the groundwork for a future grant application to scale-up the intervention, including to reach school health professionals in priority underserved schools where LGBTQ student bullying intervention efforts are urgently needed.