

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

## 1. Harassment against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students in NC schools and nationally is widespread:

- 78% of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth surveyed in NC, KY, and FLA responded affirmative to the question, “Have you ever been verbally harassed due to your gender identity/ sexual orientation?” Of those who responded in the affirmative, 92% reported that the incident occurred in school. (Source: Southeastern Network for Youth and Family Services survey “Breaking the Silence” 2003)
- Nationally, 93% of teens hear other kids in schools or in their neighborhoods use words like “fag”, “homo”, “dyke”, “queer” or “gay” at least once in a while with 51% hearing them everyday. (Source: National Mental Health Association “What Does Gay Mean?” Teen survey 2002)

## 2. Harassment contributes to an unsafe school climate

- 68% of gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth reported feeling unsafe in their school because of their sexual orientation, and 90% of transgender students reported feeling unsafe based on their gender expression. (Source: GLSEN National School Climate Survey 2001)
- 13% of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth surveyed in NC, KY, and FLA responded affirmative to the question “Have you ever been physically assaulted due to your gender identity/sexual orientation?” Of those reporting physical assault or abuse, 75% report the attack occurred in school. (Source: Southeastern Network for Youth and Family Services “Breaking the Silence” survey 2003)

## 3. Harassment often goes unaddressed

- 36% of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth in NC, KY, and FLA experiencing verbal harassment reported the incident to a counselor, teacher, or other school authority. Of those reporting the verbal abuse, 73% reported that no support was provided. (Source: Southeastern Network for Youth and Family Services “Breaking the Silence” survey 2003)
- 73% of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth experiencing physical assault reported the incident of physical assault to a teacher, counselor, or other school authority. Of those reporting physical assault to authorities, 60% responded that no support was provided. (Source: Southeastern Network for Youth and Family Services “Breaking the Silence” survey 2003)

