

A PEATC

Do You Know....



LGBTQ+ Youth with Disabilities Factsheet for Virginia's Parents and Professionals

What is LGBTQ+?

- **Lesbian** – refers to a woman whose primary attraction is to other women. Some women prefer using the term “gay” instead.
- **Gay** – refers to a person whose primary attraction is to people of the same gender. This term can refer to people of all genders.
- **Bisexual (Bi)** – refers to a person who is attracted to more than one gender, including people of their own gender. One’s attraction to different genders can be experienced in different ways, degrees, and even at different times of their life.
- **Transgender (Trans)** – refers to a person whose gender identity differs from the one they were assigned at birth. Some transgender people – but not all – will undergo hormone replacement therapy and/or surgery to align their physical body with their gender identity.
- **Queer** – Once a discriminatory term, “queer” has been reclaimed by many members of the community. This term now describes someone whose sexual orientation and/or gender identity falls outside of the “heterosexual, cisgender” classification. “Queer” is not universally embraced as a term within the community, and therefore should not be used to refer to someone unless they have already specified that they identify as such.

What Does the “Plus” Mean?

While LGBTQ describes many people in the community, there are many identities that are still left out, such as:

- **Asexual (Ace)** – refers to a person who experiences little or no sexual attraction to others and/or little or no interest in sexual relationships/behavior. However, they may still experience romantic attraction. Unlike celibacy, asexuality is not a choice.
- **Intersex** – refers to a person who develops primary and/or secondary sex characteristics that fall outside of the binary of “male” or “female.” These characteristics may or may not be visible at birth – sometimes, it is not apparent until puberty. Every intersex person is different.

Helpful Resources

[Defining LGBTQ - Gay Center](#)

[Definitions: The Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Life- | Vanderbilt University](#)

[LGBTQ Definitions, Terms & Concepts - The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](#)

[LGBT Glossary A-Z — We Are Family](#)

[LGBTQ Family Fact Sheet - Census Bureau](#)

[Understanding Bisexuality - The Trevor Project](#)

[Understanding Gay & Lesbian Identities - The Trevor Project](#)

[Two Spirit- Health Resources](#)

[Neurodiversity & Gender-Diverse Youth: An Affirming Approach to Care 2020 \(National LGBT Health Education Center\)](#)

[LGBT Adults w Disabilities - Respectability](#)

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Hablamos Español

Factsheet for Virginia's Parents and Professionals

- **Two-Spirit** – refers to an identity often recognized in Indigenous American cultures. Two-spirit people could be born male, female, or intersex, and all of them were socially recognized as neither men nor women. Many variations of the two-spirit identity existed across indigenous cultures.

And many others!

Other Terms to Know

- **Cisgender** – refers to a person whose gender identity matches the one they were assigned at birth. In other words, cisgender people do not identify as transgender.
- **Gender Expression** – refers to how someone chooses to express their gender identity. Within the United States, gender expression is increasingly becoming recognized as separate from someone's gender identity. (For instance, a man wearing a dress would not have been as widely accepted in the 1900's as it is today.)
- **Gender Identity** – refers to someone's internal perception of their own gender. This can be manifested through the gender expression and gender roles that make someone the most comfortable, but it ultimately comes down to how someone feels about who they are.



Facts about LGBTQ+ Youth with Disabilities

- Approximately 28% - 46% of people within the LGBTQ+ community have a disability, compared to 27.2% of the general population.
- LGBTQ youth with disabilities report high rates of harassment and are more likely to be bullied or harassed than students without disabilities.
- LGBTQ students with disabilities are more likely to be disciplined in school and drop out of school.
- While not youth specific, Approximately 30% of men and 36% of women identifying as LGBTQ also identify as having a disability.

Data Sources:

[LGBT People with Disabilities - lgbtmap.org](#)

[LGBT Adults w Disabilities - Respectability](#)

PEATC's mission focuses on building positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools, and communities to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life.



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