

ALL STUDENTS COUNT COALITION: MEMBERSHIP 101

For more than a decade, the **All Students Count Coalition (ASCC)** has worked to encourage state and local education or health agencies to include sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE) questions to the YRBSS. The ASCC was successful in advocating for the inclusion of the sexual orientation questions on the 2015 national YRBS survey. Now the ASCC is focused on assisting states and local education or health agencies to include two optional questions, one related to gender expression, and the other related to transgender status on their **Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS)**.

The **gender expression question** is: A person's appearance, style, dress, or the way they walk or talk may affect how people describe them. How do you think other people at school would describe you?

The **transgender status question** is: Some people describe themselves as transgender when their sex at birth does not match the way they think or feel about their gender. Are you transgender?

It is important to note that states or local education or health agencies opt in to ask both questions. They are not on the national questionnaire.

The ASCC is a network of national and state organizations led by Advocates for Youth. We believe in a world where all students have access to learning in welcoming, inclusive, and affirming environments that lead to academic success. By collecting data measuring aspects of young people's sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE), state and local education or health agencies, along with their health and community partners, will be better positioned to build inclusive learning environments that offer school programming, policies, and systems inclusive of the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning (LGBTQ+) and nonbinary young people.

Coalition Membership Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be an organization/individual based in the United States of America

Coalition Membership Benefits:

- Support the creation **resources, issue briefs, and reports** that affirm LGBTQ and nonbinary young people
- Support program and policy advocacy efforts that affirm LGBTQ and nonbinary young people
- Join a network of national and local organizations in support of LGBTQ and nonbinary young people
- Increase the awareness and importance of supporting LGBTQ and nonbinary young people to policymakers, advocates, educators, and researchers

Coalition Members Voluntarily:

- Virtually join our quarterly meetings which occur 4 times a year (January, March, July, October)
- Support the development of research questions for reports and issue briefs, review, and provide feedback on said reports and issue briefs
- Use data from reports and issue briefs to present at conferences and meetings with key stakeholders such as policymakers, advocates, educators, and researchers
- Sign ask letters related to local, state, or federal stakeholders supporting LGBTQ and nonbinary young people
- Identify state and local partners that can provide "on the ground" support to state and local agencies, if requested

Past Coalition Work Includes:

- **On All Sides: How Race, Ethnicity & Gender Influence Health Risk for Transgender Students of Color**
- **Gender Expression & the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System: Identifying and Addressing Vulnerable Student Health Risks**
- **Gender Expansive Students at Greater Risk for Bullying, Increased Tobacco Use and Substance Use as Possible Coping Strategies**
- **Gender Expansive Students at Higher Risk for Suicidal Behavior**
- **Health Risk Behaviors among Gender Expansive Students Making the Case for Including a Measure of Gender Expression in Population-Based Surveys**
- **Identifying Health Risks and Disparities among Gender Expansive Youth through the YRBSS**

For more information, check out our [website](#) or contact ascc@advocatesforyouth.org

All Students

Count Coalition

a project led by Advocates for Youth

1325 G STREET NW, SUITE 980 WASHINGTON DC 20005 • 202-419-3420
advocatesforyouth.org • [@advocatestweets](https://twitter.com/advocatestweets)

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