KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
AS AN LGBT STUDENT IN MISSISSIPPI

PRESENTED BY THE ACLU OF MS
Hey Kory, do you know what color suit you're gonna wear to the dance?

I'm actually not going in a suit.

I'll be wearing this lovely blue sequined gown!

Wait, a dress?

There's no way the school would let you!

Well Steven. I have the right to wear whatever formal wear I feel matches my gender expression.

And so does every other student here!

They're right. And just so you know, my girlfriend and I will both be wearing suits.
Sarah: What are you doing in the men’s bathroom? My name is Josh now.

Sure. And hey, you! Don’t spend the whole day putting on makeup in here, alright? Pretty boy?

Hey, not to eavesdrop. But are y’all okay?

Not really...

Augh! He’s always like that, but it’s not like we can stop him.

I’m so sorry that this is so common. But it’s completely unacceptable. The school has a legal requirement to protect you from bullying and to investigate any claims of it.

Even if we’re being harassed about our gender and sexuality?

Absolutely!

It takes bravery to go report it. But if it helps, I can go with y’all to the counselor to do it.
OH.

COOL SHIRT KRISS!

AW. THANKS!

I HAVE ONE PRETTY SIMILAR TO THAT BUT I'M JUST TOO NERVOUS TO WEAR IT TO CLASS.

I'M WORRIED THAT THE SCHOOL WOULD MAKE ME CHANGE...

YOU HAVE LEGAL PROTECTIONS AGAINST THAT KIND OF DISCRIMINATION, EMMAY! YOU CAN TOTALLY WEAR IT!

REALLY? THAT'S AWESOME! TOO BAD I'M STILL NOT ABLE TO WEAR MY SKIRTS THOUGH—

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO WEAR ANY GENDER SPECIFIC CLOTHES THAT MATCH YOUR GENDER EXPRESSION!
So I was talking to my crush last week and he—
Jaden!

Are you sure you’re comfy saying stuff like that within earshot of a teacher?
Yeah, why wouldn’t I be?

What if the teacher calls home and tells your parents? Aren’t they really homophobic?

The teacher isn’t allowed to tell my parents about my sexual orientation or gender identity!

Regardless of how open I am at school, teachers and faculty aren’t allowed to out me to anyone—including my family!
That’s my legal right to privacy!
It's so awesome to spend time with you guys!

Yeah, being in such a welcoming environment is a really nice change.

Totally! We should do this more often! What if we started a GSA?

That sounds awesome, but would we be allowed to form an official club like that?

A gay-straight alliance? That's a great idea!

Well, I would think so, since we have a drama club and a debate club. Right?

You're right! If the school allows for any non-curricular club to form, then they have a legal obligation to let us form a GSA!