this is

what we do:

Serve on National committees
Addressing the issues of LGBTQ youth in schools cannot be left to national dialogue, that is why MSSC youth serve on national committees and boards. We ensure that Mississippians have a voice in these dialogues.

Work with our Southeast Partners
By working with similar organizations in our region, we become better prepared for addressing the specific needs of Southern students, youth and organizers. This is why MSSC focuses on building stronger coalitions with our Southern allies.

Focus on Intersectional Work
Gay straight alliances and other student organizations often try to serve a diverse group of youth. MSSC works with these organizations to try to expand the scope of their work.

Got Questions? Want to join?
Get involved, get organized, make change happen

info@mssafeschools.org
www.mssafeschools.org
twitter.com/mssafeschools
facebook.com/mssafeschools

Mississippi Safe Schools Coalition
PO Box 3442
Jackson, MS 39207
662.205.6772

Empowering Mississippi youth to create change
www.mssafeschools.org

Photos courtesy of Anna C. Davis and Knol Aust
**Our Mission**
To ensure that all students have a safe learning environment by protecting students’ constitutional rights, ending homophobia, transphobia, sexism, and all forms of discrimination, and fostering acceptance of students regardless of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity through public education and advocacy.

**Our Leadership**
MSSC believes that it is impossible to make schools safe without giving young people a voice; for this reason, the coalition is youth led. Our governing body is the Queer Youth Advisory Board (or QYAB). QYAB is made up of diverse high school and college age youth activists from across the state.

**Our organization’s culture is founded on basic principles from and for our community.**

**GSA Development**
MSSC works with and for students in supporting student organizations such as gay straight alliances. MSSC connects youth leadership from across the state to develop stronger, more comprehensive programming.

**Adult Allies**
Many students who wish to start GSAs face a major obstacle in locating supportive adults who can act as faculty sponsors. They often fear losing their jobs. MSSC is working to give adults a network of support in order to combat their fears.

**Internship Program**
In Fall 2012, MSSC launched the Youth Internship Program. The goal of the program is to offer young people the opportunity to gain experience in queer organizing at community, state and national levels.

**Second Chance Prom**
Safe, alcohol and drug-free spaces are not readily available to LGBTQ youth and their allies. MSSC, in partnership with college student organizations, provides this space in the form of an annual prom.

**Activist Camp**
Southeastern LGBTQ Activist Camp began in the Summer of 2012. Young people age 14-25 learn how to create safer schools and communities for LGBTQ youth and their allies by focusing on intersectionality in their GSA work.

**Q&A Summit**
Summit is the longest-running MSSC event. The summit focuses on training queer youth and their allies in order to build stronger, more supported communities and schools.

**MSSC Survey**
MSSC began collecting data on schools and students in 2009. In 2011 MSSC began conducting formal research to determine how school superintendents and students view school bullying and harassment. This is one of the first studies to look at LGBTQ bullying in Mississippi schools.

**Cultural Competency**
MSSC provides in-service trainings to help professionals better understand LGBTQ issues. These trainings can be tailored to your group’s needs and can range from introductory information to more complex, advanced issues.