

Sioux City Community School District
Resolution Affirming LGBTQ+ Youth in Our Schools

WHEREAS, it is the right of every child, regardless of gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, to access a free public K-12 education and the Sioux City Community School District welcomes and supports all students;

WHEREAS, the district has a responsibility to ensure that all students who reside within its boundaries, regardless of gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, can safely access a free public K-12 education;

WHEREAS, the district recognizes that the families in our community come in many different forms and the District values all our families and students' caregivers, regardless of gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, the Iowa Civil Rights Law prohibits discrimination, including discrimination based on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer/Questioning ("LGBTQ")+ students experience high rates of bullying, victimization, and harassment at school on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, or that of their associates;

WHEREAS, this bullying, victimization, and harassment has led to negative educational outcomes for LGBTQ+ students, including higher rates of dropping out, higher rates of absenteeism, and lower postsecondary school aspirations;

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ students also report higher rates of anxiety and depression;

WHEREAS, school-age years are a critical time for LGBTQ+ youth as they often "come out" or disclose their LGBTQ+ identities to others during that time.

WHEREAS, creating a welcoming and safe school environment for our LGBTQ+ students, staff, families, and caregivers makes our school community more welcoming and safe to all;

WHEREAS, the district supports education that embraces our different identities; integrity in how we treat others; and courage to do what's right by listening to, learning from, and respecting diverse viewpoints;

WHEREAS, educational personnel are one of the primary sources of support, resources, and information to assist and support students and student learning, which includes their social and emotional health;

AND WHEREAS, the success of LGBTQ+ students, and all students, often depends on the ability of public school educational staff to facilitate parent and student information and services that strengthen family relationships while ultimately also supporting student safety and learning.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sioux City Community School District prohibits discrimination against all persons, whether student, family/caregiver of a student on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the district prohibits bullying and harassment against all students, whether on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board declares the district to be a Safe Space for its students, meaning that the district is a place for students to learn, to thrive, and to seek assistance, information, and support free from discrimination and bullying;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, although the district does and will continue to adhere to any and all requirements, the district fundamentally opposes any state or legislative action that seeks to discriminate against LGBTQ+ students by restricting rights, limiting educational content and creating a school environment of feeling less safe and accepted.

Resolution approved, _____ (date) by the Sioux City Community School District Board of Directors

Ayes _____

Nays _____

Signed,

President-Board of Directors

Sioux City Community School District

Superintendent

Sioux City Community School District