

ACTION: Call on Your School to Protect LGBTQ+ Students

Reach out to your local leaders and demand that they protect LGBTQ+ students!

Donald Trump and his political appointees at the U.S. Department of Education are weaponizing civil rights enforcement mechanisms in an attempt to intimidate school districts into adopting anti-LGBTQ+ policies. They have already threatened to withhold federal funds from states, set up a tip line at the behest of Moms for Liberty to collect complaints about diversity in schools, and called discriminatory book bans "a hoax" when dismissing legitimate complaints from students and families.

Now is the time to engage your local school leaders and make clear that your community wants a more inclusive approach that respects LGBTQ+ students. School leaders should not be intimidated into adopting exclusionary policies or marginalizing students in their care.

Contact information for your principal, superintendent, and school board members should be available on your school or school district's website. Adapt the below template to send a letter or email and make your voice heard with your local school leaders!

Template Letter: Reaching Out to Your Principal, Superintendent, or School Board

Dear [INSERT NAME OF PRINCIPAL, SUPERINTENDENT, OR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER],

I am the parent of a student at _____ School. I'm writing with deep concern about recent statements and actions coming out of Washington that target inclusive learning and seek to marginalize LGBTQ+ students.

Schools in our community should be a welcoming place for all students, where every child can grow and thrive in pursuit of their full potential. Recent executive orders and actions taken by the U.S. Department of Education undermine that vision with threats, including potential legal action against teachers and pulling funding from schools that fail to enact trans-exclusionary policies. **These threats are scare tactics, and I urge you not to be intimidated.** As a leader in our school community, you must set the example for educators and reassure LGBTQ+ students, and especially transgender students, by publicly committing to an inclusive approach that respects and acknowledges the dignity of all students.

Federal courts have long recognized that LGBTQ+ students - including transgender students - have rights under the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution and Title IX, a federal law prohibiting sex-based discrimination in schools. Transgender students have prevailed in litigation, even when there has not been clear guidance or support from the U.S. Department of Education, including cases related to access to bathrooms and school sports. Federal law has also consistently prohibited federal interference in classroom instruction. The U.S. Department of Education does not set curriculum and does not review individual teacher performance, and we cannot let political appointees in Washington dictate what we teach in our community.

These are challenging times, and we need leaders in our community who will uphold the best interests of their student population and ensure every child feels safe and included. We look to your leadership to allay the fears of LGBTQ+ students and stand ready to support you, teachers implementing inclusive approaches, and others in affirming the civil rights of all students in the district. I respectfully request acknowledgment of receipt of this letter and look forward to hearing how you will support LGBTQ+ students in the district.

Sincerely,
[YOUR NAME]