

Resolution to Support LGBTQ+ Students

WHEREAS LGBTQ+ students disproportionately report being subject to unsafe school climates, for example, research by GLSEN shows that 59.5% of LGBTQ+ students felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation, and 44.6% felt unsafe because of their gender expression; and

WHEREAS even in Silicon Valley LGBTQ+ youth experience isolation, lack of acceptance, and lack of support in schools; and

WHEREAS research demonstrates that schools with inclusive and affirming learning environments have fewer student absences and greater improvements in academic achievement at all grade levels;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls on all school districts in Santa Clara County to:

1. Set and reinforce a vision and mission statement that is welcoming and inclusive of all students, including LGBTQ+ students.
2. Assess, strengthen, and monitor school climate on a regular and ongoing basis.
3. Adopt and implement clear, consistent, and comprehensive non-discrimination policies that protect and affirm students' sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression and prohibit discrimination against students, families, and educators on those bases.
4. Ensure that anti-bullying and harassment policies enumerate and specifically include protections for LGBTQ+ students.
5. Ensure that discipline policies rely on positive and restorative approaches and do not disproportionately target LGBTQ+ youth, students of color, English Language Learners, or students with disabilities.
6. Ensure that district and school policies are designed and implemented to support transgender and gender nonconforming students.
7. Ensure that professional development and educator resources include a focus on creating inclusive learning environments in which all students, including LGBTQ+ students, feel safe and welcome, and that schools have counselors who are trained to support LGBTQ+ students.
8. Establish a welcoming and affirming environment for LGBTQ+ students and their allies.
9. Work with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) to get additional information about effectiveness of policies and to increase accountability.

Submitted by Jacob James

Adopted by Youth Delegates and affirmed by the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee on July 7, 2022