

ALL TOGETHER *Now Conference*

In recent years Equality Florida's All Together Now conference has been co-hosted by the Florida Education Association, the Florida Association of School Psychologists, Florida School Counselor Association, Florida Parent Teacher Association, and the Florida Association of School Social Workers.

With the harmful laws passed in Florida, combined with the attacks on education, the All Together Now conference is a beacon of hope for education leaders, who are invested in ensuring all students have access to a high-quality education.

The annual All Together Now: Fostering Inclusive Schools for LGBTQ Students conference has been fundamental in expanding and institutionalizing best practices to address the needs, well-being, and experiences of LGBTQ faculty, staff, students, and their families.

Recently, the All Together Now conference had representation across Florida including:

- 55** Senior district staff across 20 school districts, including 14 school board members;
- 20** Florida PTA members, including 6 County-Council Presidents and the Florida PTA president and president-elect;
- 15** Florida Education Association leaders, including 5 union presidents; and
- 15** Executive leaders from the Florida School Counselor Association, Florida Association of School Psychologists, and the Florida Association of School Social Workers.



For more information, please email hr@equalityflorida.org, visit www.equalityflorida.org, or call (813) 870-3735

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SAFE & HEALTHY *Schools*



OUR Vision

WE ENVISION A STATE WHERE ALL OF FLORIDA'S 67 SCHOOL DISTRICTS TAKE OWNERSHIP OVER THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELL-BEING OF OUR LGBTQ FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS, PARENTS, And Teachers

Equality Florida's Safe and Healthy Schools program strives to implement systemic change throughout Florida's 67 school districts. Despite the harmful laws and rules passed in Florida, we work closely with school districts to ensure they still create environments where all youth, including our LGBTQ youth can thrive.

The program has opened doors and forged ongoing partnerships for the benefit of LGBTQ students across the state of Florida. Over the past seven years, our team has trained nearly 40,000 teachers, principals, and mental health professionals.

By expanding training across Florida, we are ensuring school-based staff have the tools and resources to support the unique needs of our LGBTQ youth and their families. As we continue to provide professional development, it is important that teachers, parents, and students understand Florida's laws.

HISTORIC LEGAL Win!

In March of 2024, after nearly 2 years of fighting the Don't Say LGBTQ law in the courts, we reached a historic settlement agreement with the state that puts an end to some of the most dangerous impacts of Don't Say LGBTQ for Florida's students, parents, and teachers.

Here's some of what the state of Florida has conceded to in this agreement:

RESTORES

the ability of teachers to discuss LGBTQ individuals, families, and topics in schools; the law only prevents classroom instruction on these topics

REITERATES

that the law does not prohibit anti-bullying programs aimed at improving the mental and physical health of LGBTQ students

ALLOWS

safe space stickers to be posted on classroom walls and throughout the school

AFFIRMS

the ability to have books, musicals, or plays that feature LGBTQ characters

PROTECTS

GSA's (Gay-Straight Alliances / Genders-Sexualities Alliances) as an extracurricular activity available to students

IMPORTANCE OF Our Program

Beginning in 2021, our state experienced the most aggressive erosion of basic protections for LGBTQ youth that we have seen in our 25-year history. Florida made national headlines for a wave of legislation that makes our schools less safe and increases health care disparities for our transgender community.

According to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 24.9% of Florida high school students identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or unsure of their sexual orientation. As well, 1.7% of Florida high school students identified as transgender. We remain laser-focused on eliminating the bullying, harassment, social isolation, and bigotry that dramatically increase risk factors for our LGBTQ youth.

By addressing not only physical safety but also mental and emotional well-being, we create schools where LGBTQ students can thrive. Our team understands that a positive school experience can be life-changing, and when students feel safe, they perform better academically. As a result, we will continue to do everything in our power to ensure that all of Florida's students have access to safe, fair, and welcoming schools.

