AASB Resolution Submission Form

Section *(Click the drop down arrow to select the section)* **:** Child Advocacy

Resolution Number (staff generated) :

Title: Safe and Inclusive Learning Environments for LGBTQ+ Students

Proposed Resolution, Amendment or Comment: (please write your new resolution, an amendment to an existing resolution or a comment concerning a resolution in this text box. Rationale for a new or amended resolution is on the next page.)

AASB encourages member districts, state agencies, and other decision-makers to support policies and practices that ensure safe and inclusive learning environments for LGBTQ+ students. Specific strategies may include enumerating sexual orientation and gender identity and expression in policies relating to harassment and bullying, supporting training for educators and other school professionals on the experiences of transgender and gender nonconforming students, incorporating gender-neutral language and practices into school programs and norms, and updating health education curricula to incorporate age-appropriate, medically accurate, and culturally sensitive information on LGBTQ+ issues. AASB supports districts in their efforts to protect the health and dignity of all children and youth, including transgender and nonbinary students, and to ensure equal access to educational programs.

Rationale :

AASB recognizes the criticality of positive school climate on student academic success and has long held that every child deserves to go to school excited to learn in a safe and nurturing environment, without fear of bullying, violence, or discrimination.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) students are more likely than their peers to be bullied, physically assaulted and feel unsafe in school because of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, LGBTQ+ students report higher rates of isolation, depression, and suicidal ideations or attempts then their peers.

Harassment and bullying policies that specifically enumerate sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression have been shown to be associated with decreased incidents of harassment relating to sexual orientation, increased reporting of students feeling safe at school, and increased teacher/staff intervention in harassment. AASB encourages member districts, agencies, community partners, and all decision-makers to develop and enact policies and practices that protect the health, safety, and dignity of LGBTQ+ students.

Additional:
The legal landscape defining protected classes from discrimination is evolving. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. On June 15, 2020, the US Supreme Court held that discrimination on the basis of an individual's status as gay or transgender constitutes sex discrimination within the meaning of Title VII of the Civil Right Act (Bostock v. Clayton County). On June 16, 2021, the US Department of Education Office for Civil Rights issued a Notice of Interpretation affirming that discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals is discrimination on the basis of sex under Title IX. State laws and local policies across the country are often contradictory and are changing based on court outcomes.

Proposed by :

Date Submitted (M/D/YY) :