

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, Board Member

SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZE AND OBSERVE OCTOBER 2022 AS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER (LGBTQ) HISTORY MONTH, AND INCORPORATE LANDMARK SUPREME COURT CASES, OBERGEFELL V. HODGES (2015) AND BOSTOCK V. CLAYTON COUNTY (2020), IN 12th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The month of October has been established to remind all cultures within our wider community of the important roles that LGBTQ people have taken in shaping the social, historical, legal, and political worlds we live in today. A number of LGBTQ historical events and people of all races have contributed to the history of equality for all people, and LGBTQ individuals have made and continue to make lasting contributions to strengthen the fabric of American society.

Teaching LGBTQ history fosters a welcoming school climate where LGBTQ students, families, and educators can live their authentic lives and be treated with dignity and respect. As per Florida State Statute 1003.42, 2(f), students are required to learn about “The history of the United States, including the period of discovery, early colonies, the War for Independence, the Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights movement to the present.”

In 12th grade U.S. Government Courses, students are taught about important Supreme Court Landmark cases that have shaped our country’s civil rights history. Specifically, under Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, SS.912.C.3.7, students are to describe the role of the judicial branch and its role in government. With this in mind, it is important to consider including two landmark Supreme Court cases to the existing 12th grade U.S. Government course study of judicial cases. Including the study of Supreme Court cases *Obergefell v. Hodges (2015)* and *Bostock v. Clayton County (2020)* contributes to a more extensive understanding of constitutional principles, historical decisions in U.S. history, and public advocacy. These Supreme Court cases guarantee fundamental constitutional rights, and it is imperative that students have access to a comprehensive view of landmark civil rights cases and suffrage movements in the United States.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is firmly committed to school safety for all students, staff, and family members, including the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) community, or those that may be perceived as such, and to creating a positive school climate by maintaining a safe environment and developing a sense of belonging for all students and staff. The District appreciates and recognizes the importance of LGBTQ History Month as an effective means of educating and calling to action our community to work together by fighting prejudice and discrimination in their own lives and increasing visibility and raising awareness.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. LUCIA BAEZ-GELLER:**

- That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:
1. Recognize and observe October 2022 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) History Month and direct the Superintendent to support policies and practices, consistent with provisions outlined in Policy 2240 and Policy 2260, that respect and support LGBTQ students and their families throughout the school year; and
 2. Direct the Superintendent of Schools to explore the feasibility of including *Obergefell v. Hodges (2015)* and *Bostock v. Clayton County (2020)*, among the group of Landmark Supreme Court Cases in 12th Grade Social Studies.