

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller

SUBJECT: IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE, FEDERAL, AND SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES RECOGNIZE IN OCTOBER 2024 THE OBSERVANCE OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER (LGBTQ) HISTORY MONTH

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.

LGBTQ History Month was created in 1994 by Rodney Wilson, a high school history teacher in Missouri. In 1995, a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the National Education Association included LGBTQ History Month within a list of commemorative months. In October of 1979, the first LGBTQ National March on Washington occurred, marking the 10th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. The month now also includes Spirit Day on October 20th, on which people around the country wear purple in support of LGBTQ youth.

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, 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. All students have an equal right to learning in an environment free from discrimination and harassment, and M-DCPS is committed to removing any barrier that would hinder a student's safety.

LGBTQ youth research collected by the CDC and the Trevor Project, an organization centered around suicide prevention for LGBTQ+ youth, showed that "LGBTQ youth are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers." According to the Journal of Adolescent Health, "transgender and nonbinary youth were 2 to 2.5 times as likely to experience depressive symptoms, seriously consider suicide, and attempt suicide compared to their cisgender LGBTQ peers." Polls conducted this past year by the Trevor Project show "86% of transgender and nonbinary youth say recent debates around anti-transgender issues have negatively impacted their mental health.

The District appreciates and recognizes the importance of LGBTQ History Month as an effective means of educating and uniting our community to work together by fighting prejudice and discrimination in their own lives, increasing visibility, and raising awareness without pertaining to, relating to, or affecting curriculum, classroom instruction or instructional materials. This fosters a welcoming school climate where LGBTQ students, families, and educators can live their authentic lives and be treated with dignity and respect. M-DCPS encourages community partners, students, teachers, and employees to recognize LGBTQ History Month and continue to support the efforts to maintain a safe learning environment and protect the equal rights of each and every person in Miami-Dade County.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel 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 2024 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) History Month in a way that complies with state and federal law and School Board Policies, including Policies 1210, 3210, 4210, and 5780; and
2. Direct the Superintendent to support existing policies and practices that respect and support LGBTQ students, employees, and families throughout the school year in a way that does not pertain to, relate to, or affect curriculum, instruction, or instructional materials, and that is consistent with provisions outlined in Policy 2240, Policy 2260, and state and federal laws.