



SUPPORTING TRANSGENDER STUDENTS & FAMILIES

We All Belong

In a disturbing trend that has continued for far too long, LGBTQ+ students continue to watch their basic human rights debated and abolished in states across the country—many specifically targeting transgender and nonbinary youth.

As consistently noted in previous LPS guidance, Lexington students may be experiencing increased stress, anger, sadness, and fear. While many of the formal discussions are taking place outside of Massachusetts, these debates and policies affect transgender kids and families everywhere, including our community.

Please consider taking these steps to ensure that Lexington Public Schools is a place where **“we all belong,”** including our transgender and nonbinary students.

Educate Yourself about Misinformation

Make sure you personally are aware of the misinformation and fear driving this legislation. The district webpage [Equity at LPS - LGBTQIA+](#) has some helpful resources. This webpage by Greater Boston PFLAG is a great starting point: [Answering your questions about recent transgender bills](#).

The [2021 Lexington Youth Risk Behavior Survey \(YRBS\)](#) provides important insights into the experience of LGBTQ+ students in Lexington.

8th Annual Parent Academy on March 19 includes several sessions in support of our core value “We All Belong” [2022 Lexington Parent Academy Registration Link](#)

Amplify Accurate Information

Share publications and influencers who are speaking out against these attacks. [Chase Strangio](#), Deputy Director of Transgender Justice with the ACLU, clearly explains the issues confronting transgender individuals, and regularly shares information via his [social media](#) presence. See more resources below!

Monitor Oppression

This [legislative tracker](#) shows states where anti-trans policies have passed or are currently being considered. Currently, 100’s of bills are being considered in at least 30 states.

Recently, Texas took the unprecedented step of declaring age-appropriate, medically necessary, gender-affirming healthcare for transgender adolescents and teens as child abuse. This action contradicts best-practice care and guidance from every major medical organization—including the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [American Medical Association](#).



In addition, bans on transgender students participating in school athletics have passed in at least 10 states and Florida recently passed a law criminalizing discussions of sexual orientation and gender identity in schools with so-called “Don’t Say Gay” legislation.

Support Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31

On March 31, International Transgender Day of Visibility is recognized around the world. The day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of transgender and nonbinary people while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to achieve trans justice.

Attend [Trans Folks: Who We Are](#) on March 31 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. A panel discussion, including stories and conversations with a group of incredible trans people. Hosted by Belmont Public Library, co-hosted by LexPride and others.

To learn more: [Why Transgender Day of Visibility is Important](#)

Reach Out Directly to Trans Students

If transgender students have shared that aspect of their identity with you, reach out to them privately to let them know that you are thinking of them and want to support them. Consider sharing that you imagine it is challenging to endure the news reports and legislative bills right now. *Please only reach out directly to students who have explicitly shared this part of their identity with you themselves.*

Join a SHAC LGBTQ+ Subcommittee

The LGBTQ+ subcommittee of the LPS Student Health Advisory Council meets monthly to discuss how to make Lexington’s schools safer and more inclusive for our LGBTQ+ students and families. All community members are welcome to join: [Join SHAC](#). Some of our current initiatives include:

- Improving the experience of LGBTQ+ kids in sports through collaborative work with athletics and GLSEN’s [“Changing the Game”](#) Initiative
- Identifying concrete ways to support LGBTQ+ students in all Lexington schools
- Informing our community about the experience of transgender/nonbinary students through community forums and ongoing education
- Active Bystander Training for faculty & students.
- Increasing awareness of [GBPFLAG’s Parent/Caregiver Support Groups](#) through the PPC & Counseling and other resources for students and families
- Support the student lead Day of Silence on April 28 and Pride month in June
- The subcommittee also regularly receives updates and provides feedback on various district work to support LGBTQ+ community members, including staff training, inclusive curriculum, supporting affinity groups, and more.



- See more at [SHAC LGBTQ Subcommittee – 2019/20 Report](#).

Additional Resources

- [2021 Lexington Youth Risk Behavior Survey \(YRBS\)](#)
- [LGBTQIA+ in Lexington Public Schools](#) (District Website)
- LPS' [Report on Efforts to Reduce Systemic Barriers to Equity: Annual Update January 2022](#)
- [Myths and Facts: Battling Disinformation about Transgender Rights](#)
- [MythBusters: Debunking Anti-Transgender Messaging](#)
- [New Poll Illustrates the Impacts of Social & Political Issues on LGBTQ+ Youth](#) (Trevor Project)
- [How Parents Can Support a Child Who's Trans](#)
- [I'm A Pediatrician Who Cares for Transgender Kids - Here's What You Need to Know About Social Support, Puberty Blockers and other Medical Options that Improve the Lives of Transgender Youth](#) (The Conversation)
- [Meet Rebekah, a Trans 14-Year-Old Who Just Wants to Play Sports](#) (The Advocate)
- [2021 Becomes Record Year for Anti-Transgender Legislation](#) (HRC)
- [Parenting with a Capital "P"](#) (The Colonial Times)
- [2021 State Action Center](#) (National Center for Transgender Equality)
- [Transgender Day of Visibility is March 31, 2022](#)