



## **Resolution Honoring Pride Month and Celebrating LGBTQ+ Students, Staff, and Community Members**

WHEREAS, the Orange County Board of Education acknowledges the dignity and worth of all students and employees and strives to create a safe, caring, and responsive school environment to facilitate student learning and achievement; and,

WHEREAS, the board prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or age; and, as noted in policy 1710, the Board will not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, or bullying in any of its educational or employment activities or programs; and,

WHEREAS, OCS Gender Support Guidelines state that “OCS staff play an essential role in creating a supportive school culture and advocating for the well-being of all students. It is important for school staff, students, and parents to be aware that transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming students may be at a higher risk for peer ostracism, victimization, and bullying because of bias and/or the possibility of misunderstanding and lack of knowledge about their lives. Schools must be proactive in creating a school culture that respects and values all students and fosters an understanding of gender identity and expression within the school community;” and,

WHEREAS, June 2024 marks the fifty-fourth anniversary of the first Pride Parade, which came one year after the Stonewall Uprising of 1969 (six nights of riots led by transgender women of color like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, sparked when LGBTQ+ people resisted police harassment and brutality during an early morning bar raid. It was a historic moment that served as a catalyst for the LGBTQ+ rights movement in the United States and around the world); and,

WHEREAS, the decades since have been one of struggle and celebration for the LGBTQ+ community; despite increased support and acceptance, LGBTQ+ young people still face many challenges; for example, without accepting families they are more likely to experience homelessness and nearly five times more likely to attempt suicide; and,

WHEREAS, in June 2024, there are 516 anti-LGBTQ+ bills in the U.S., including bills that would limit representation of gender diverse and LGBTQ+ people in the curriculum in schools, access to medical care, and participation in sports; and,

WHEREAS, The Trevor Project reports in 2024 that “roughly half of transgender and nonbinary young people found school to be gender-affirming, and those who did reported lower rates of attempting suicide;” and,

WHEREAS, the Trevor Project National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health in 2021 reported that 75 percent of LGBTQ+ youth had experienced discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity at least once in their lifetime, and over half had experienced this form of discrimination in the past year; and,



WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people in the United States face disparities in employment, healthcare, education, housing, and many other areas central to the pursuit of happiness in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, Cornell University's What We Know Project found that LGBTQ+ people of color face disproportionately higher rates of discrimination in the workplace and community at large, exceeding discrimination experienced by both white LGBTQ+ people and by straight people of color; and,

WHEREAS, the Orange County School Board appreciates the many contributions made by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) students, staff, families, and community members to the vibrancy of the broader school community; and,

WHEREAS, it is imperative that young people in our community, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression, feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their community; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orange County School Board, does hereby proclaim the month of June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in Orange County Schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Orange County School Board commits to working with LGBTQ+ students, families, staff, and community members to build safe and equitable schools where all students, families, and staff members are valued for who they are and where diversity is celebrated; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Orange County School Board encourages central services and administrators to support educators across grade levels and content areas to acknowledge and celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month each June, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Orange County School Board urges all students, staff, and community members to respect and honor our diverse community, and to build a culture of inclusivity and equity, not only during LGBTQ+ Pride Month but during the other eleven months of the year, as well.

Adopted this 24th day of June 2024.

Anne m. Purcell  
Anne m. Purcell (Jun 25, 2024 10:04 EDT)

Jun 25, 2024

Mrs. Anne Purcell, Chair  
Orange County Board of Education

Date

Danielle Jones  
Danielle Jones (Jun 25, 2024 09:19 EDT)

Jun 25, 2024

Dr. Danielle Jones, Superintendent  
Orange County Schools

Date

# Updated Pride Month Resolution June 2024 - SIGNED

Final Audit Report

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