



Pride Month, Student Belonging, and Inclusive School Communities

To our EPS community,

As we recognize Pride Month, we want to reaffirm our district's ongoing commitment to creating safe, respectful, and supportive learning environments for all students. Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work is grounded in one core belief: every student deserves to feel safe, valued, and able to learn at school. Pride Month is one opportunity among many throughout the year where schools highlight respect for diversity and the importance of belonging for all members of our school community.

What Pride Month Means in Our Schools

In Everett Public Schools, Pride Month is an opportunity to:

- Recognize the importance of respectful and inclusive school environments
- Reinforce expectations that all students are treated with dignity
- Support school climates where bullying, harassment, and exclusion are not tolerated
- Affirm that every student has the right to feel safe at school

This does not change curriculum requirements or ask families to change their personal beliefs. Schools remain focused on educational standards, student wellbeing, and safe learning environments.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is the district promoting a belief system?

No. Everett Public Schools does not promote or require any personal belief system. Our responsibility is to ensure all students are safe and respected while at school.

2. Why do schools recognize Pride Month?

Schools recognize Pride Month as part of broader efforts to ensure that all students experience belonging and safety. This aligns with our commitment to nondiscrimination and inclusive school climates.

3. Will this effect what my child is taught in class?

No. Pride Month recognition does not change required curriculum. Instruction continues to follow Washington State standards and district-approved materials.



4. What if my family disagrees with these topics?

We recognize that families hold a wide range of beliefs and values. The district respects family perspectives while maintaining its responsibility to ensure that **all students are treated with respect and are safe at school.**

5. How are students supported if they feel uncomfortable or have questions?

Students are encouraged to speak with trusted adults such as teachers, counselors, or administrators. Our staff are trained to respond in a professional, appropriate, age-appropriate, and supportive manner.

6. Is my child required to participate in Pride-related activities?

Participation varies by activity and grade level. Classroom instruction remains aligned to district curriculum. Optional school climate activities are designed to promote respect and inclusion for all students.

7. How does the district ensure fairness for all students?

Everett Public Schools is committed to treating all students with dignity and respect while complying with Washington State nondiscrimination laws and OSPI guidance.

Our Commitment to Families

We recognize that these topics can bring a range of perspectives. Our goal is not to divide or exclude, but to ensure that every student:

- Feels safe at school
- Is treated with respect
- Has equal access to learning
- Is protected from discrimination or bullying

We value partnership with families and appreciate ongoing communication as we work together to support student success. Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting our students and schools. We remain committed to fostering learning environments where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

With PRIDE, learning, and collaboration,

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department