



East Lansing
Public Schools

Board of Education, 501 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823

April 22, 2016

Dear Members of the Michigan State Board of Education,

In our public education spaces, where our communities are all working to provide the best opportunities for learning and growth for all of our students, it is critical that each and every individual is accepted and valued. One must be and feel safe in order to learn. Your “Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students” not only recognizes the difficulties many of our more marginalized students face, it also offers many suggestions to public school districts for providing a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment in our public schools, places of learning that welcome every child.

The East Lansing Board of Education supports the statement and guidance you have provided on this important issue.

We recognize that none of these recommendations and suggestions are mandates. They are recommendations and suggestions. As such, they provide meaningful ideas for public school district governing boards, administrators, teachers and staff to consider in creating a better, safer learning environment for all students.

As the public school district in the Michigan community that was the first in the nation to ban discrimination in hiring practices on the basis of sexual orientation (East Lansing in 1972), we fully support your draft statement and the ideas it provides that have been shown to work in various districts around the state and the nation.

As public school policy-makers, we embrace our responsibility to assure that each individual student has the safest environment in which to learn, and we urge you to vote in favor of the “Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students”.

Thank you for the sensitivity and perceptiveness you manifest in this statement.

Sincerely,

Nell Kuhnmuensch

Yasmina Bouraoui

Kath Edsall

Hillary Henderson

Erin Graham

Karen Hoene

Kate Powers