






Organized groups are sowing fears and doubts about the appropriateness of discussing topics such as gender identity and race in K-12 classrooms. We need to show that this vocal minority does not speak for the entire community. It is critical for supporters of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) to go on record with public demonstrations of support, including public comment at School Committee meetings and Letters to school administration and local news sources.

Let your community leaders know that you support DEI efforts in schools and the greater community, as it amounts to teaching respect for others and responsibility for one's actions. Groups who wish to suppress these topics frequently misstate what is being taught and claim that the curricula are "new" and "experimental", when typically lessons around appreciating diversity, affirming differences, and treating classmates with dignity and respect have been taught for years; they are just receiving renewed attention right now.

Use our toolkit below for selecting elements for your own letter of support.

Write a Letter Supporting DEI Efforts in Your Community

-  **Know the Process and Best Practices:**
If you're submitting to a local paper or online news source, be aware of any limitations (e.g., one letter or signature on a group letter per person per 30 days. Find out your paper's policies and deadline for publication
-  **Keep it as short as practical, while still providing enough context and clear messaging**
-  **Consider having others sign your letter as a show of group support, or plan with allies to submit multiple letters in succession, releasing one per week.**
-  **Gather names, titles, dates and talking points prior to starting.**
-  **Open by thanking those involved, giving an example, and explaining the importance:**
 - "I'm writing to thank the Board of Library Trustees and the Library staff for their support of Pride Month activities at the library. These activities offer the chance for Town to celebrate the diverse range of families who reside here and to affirm that all are welcome in our town."

Quote the DEI statement from the relevant department (i.e., the town, the school district, the library):

- “[Town] Public Schools is committed to creating a community where student outcomes are not determined by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, language, disability, or socioeconomic status” or
- “[Town] celebrates the diverse backgrounds and identities inside our schools and in the broader community and develops programs, resources, and services that help everyone learn, grow, and feel that they belong.”

Explain why support is critical to LGBTQ+ youth:

- LGBTQ+ youth have higher rates of suicide than the peers, but the presence of just one supportive adult cuts the likelihood that that youth will attempt suicide by 40%
- In a time when LGBTQ+ youth are watching their worlds grow smaller and more frightening, publicly and assertively stating your support for these youth can make a large difference

Cite data from primary sources:

- LGBTQIA+ students with inclusive curriculum have better academic and mental health outcomes and are less likely to miss school ([GLSEN’s National School Climate Survey](#))
- The [2022 National Survey on LGBTQIA+ Youth Mental Health](#) showed that 43% of LGBTQIA+ youth had considered suicide in the previous year, but that the presence of a supportive adult, support for LGBTQIA+ issues in school, or the presence of social supports reduced suicide attempts in LGBTQIA+ youth by 40%

Show how affirmation helps us all:

- [GLSEN research](#) shows that the inclusion of LGBTQ+ topics in curricula corresponds to all students reporting that they feel safer in school, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Curricula should reflect issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, as relevant, to be inclusive across subject areas, including, but not limited to, health, social science, language arts, and family life curricula.

End on a call to action

- "I look forward to your continued support of this important work."
- Encourage more people to support DEI work
- Invite the public to an event
- Challenge other leaders to make a public, affirming statement