



**LGBTQ QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION 20191014-3A**

Date October 14, 2019

Subject City of Austin Support for Austin Independent School District's (AISD's) Comprehensive, LGBTQ-Inclusive Sex Education Curriculum

Description of Recommendation to Council

The LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission recommends that the Austin City Council issue a statement recognizing and applauding AISD's goal to implement a comprehensive LGBTQ-inclusive sex education curriculum.

Rationale

The City of Austin has adopted the Strategic Direction 2023 with the aim of improving quality of life in the Austin community.

As part of the Strategic Direction 2023, the City has adopted strategic outcomes for "Safety," defined as "Being safe in our home, at work, and in our community" and for "Health," defined as "Enjoying ... a healthy life, physically and mentally."

Current City, Travis County and Texas statistics regarding youth sexual behavior and outcomes indicate the need for improvement in the strategic outcome for "Health" for Austin teens (statistics below quoted from "Why Sex Ed?" InformedParentsOfAustin.com):

- A baby is born to a teen mom in Travis County every 10 hours (txcampaign.org)
- In 2016, Texas had the 4th highest teen birthrate nationwide (U.S. Dept Health and Human Services)
- Cases of Chlamydia among youth aged 15-24 increased 46% in the past 10 years (txcampaign.org)
- Texas ranks #3 for AIDS/HIV cases and #17 for STDs/STIs (CDC)

Current City and Texas statistics indicate the need for improvement in the strategic outcomes for "Health" and "Safety" for Austin LGBTQ youth (statistics below quoted from "Why Sex Ed?" InformedParentsOfAustin.com):

- Austin ranks #3 in metropolitan areas with highest (reported) LGBTQ percentage (5.3% Gallup 2015) and even higher for school aged population
- 72% of LGBTQ students in Texas have been verbally harassed due to sexual orientation and 64% for gender expression in the past year; 49% have been physically harassed or assaulted for sexual orientation and 42% for gender expression (GLSEN 2017)



AISD's implementation of a comprehensive, LGBTQ-inclusive sex education curriculum will help improve these strategic outcomes for youth in AISD schools in the areas of "Safety" and "Health" by:

- providing scientifically accurate information about anatomy and physiology, contraception and sexually transmitted infections
- reducing discrimination by including and supporting LGBTQ students and families ("Why Sex Ed?" InformedParentsOfAustin.com)
- creating a culture of consent where students set and respect personal boundaries ("Why Sex Ed?" InformedParentsOfAustin.com)

Furthermore, AISD's adoption of a comprehensive, LGBTQ-inclusive sex education curriculum serves as a model for other ISDs and non-ISD schools within Austin city-limits and may inspire them to adopt a similar curriculum, thus helping to further improve quality of life in "Health" and "Safety" for all Austin youth.

Vote

Date of Approval: October 14, 2019

Record of the vote: Adopted without objection on a 12-0 vote.

Present: Martinez, Gonzales, Chavez, Curry, Doughty, Dowling, Gonzalez, Gorczyński, Hines, Kirby, Taylor, Wollerson

Attest: Kathryn M. Gonzales
Kathryn Gonzales, Vice Chair