

Statement of LGBTQ+ Inclusion

The Iowa City Community School District is committed to creating a safe and inclusive school environment for all students free from harassment, intimidation, bullying, and discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation.

School climate is an important predictor of student success for all students, however, schools can be especially unwelcoming for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ+) youth. Research shows that LGBTQ+ students, nationally, and in Iowa, experience discrimination, harassment, and violence more frequently than their non-LGBTQ+ peers. Data from the District's 2017 School Climate Report reveals that students who identify as LGBTQ+ are significantly less likely to report that they feel they belong in school, that school staff is supportive of them, and that they feel that their contributions are valued in the classroom.

The District is devoted to addressing the needs and inequities that LGBTQ+ youth face in our schools. This commitment to inclusion of our LGBTQ+ students builds on existing Iowa law and current District policies. Incorporating an inclusive atmosphere free from discrimination is identified in Title IX, the Iowa Code, the District's non-discrimination policy, and the District's mission statement. It is our shared responsibility to ensure every member of our school community is valued and respected regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation. We are actively working to create more inclusive policies and practices that support and affirm the identities of LGBTQ+ students. We believe that learning about the diversity of humankind is an essential part of education in a democratic society. We encourage our students, staff, and members of the community to celebrate the inclusiveness and diversity that contributes to growth, success, safety, and quality of life for everyone at the Iowa City Community School District.

Approved: 4/24/18

Bruch, Sarah K, Tessa Heeren, Qianyi Shi, Rachel Maller, Meredith McCaffrey, Nicole Nucaro, and Irvin Rodriguez. 2017. "Student Experiences Of School Climate In The Iowa City Community School District 2017". Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa Public Policy Center.
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Iowa Code §216.9 (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/216.9.pdf>
Iowa Code § 280.28 (2016). Retrieved from <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/2015/280.28.pdf>
⁶Iowa City Community School District Non Discrimination Policy (2017). Retrieved from <https://www.iowacityschools.org/Page/41>