School Climate Affects LGBTQ Student Well-being

60% of LGBTQ students feel unsafe at school.

35% of LGBTQ students missed at least one entire day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable.

92% of LGBTQ students felt distressed by hearing anti-LGBTQ remarks at school.

57% of students reported hearing homophobic remarks from their teachers or other school staff.

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are **3-5 times more likely** to attempt suicide.

40% of transgender people will attempt suicide in their lifetime.

62% of LGBTQ students report experiencing LGBTQ-related discriminatory policies or practices at school.

Some schools have policies prohibiting students from…

- ✖ discussing or writing about LGBTQ topics in school assignments;
- ✖ attending a dance or function with someone of the same gender;
- ✖ wearing clothing or items supporting LGBTQ issues; and
- ✖ using the preferred name or pronoun of transgender and gender nonconforming students.

LGBTQ students who experienced higher levels of victimization because of their sexual orientation or gender expression…

- ▶ Were nearly **three times as likely** to have missed school in the past month than those who experienced lower levels;
- ▶ Had **lower grade point averages** than students who were less often harassed;
- ▶ Were **twice as likely** to report that they did not plan to pursue college than those who experienced lower levels; and
- ▶ Were **more likely** to have been disciplined at school.

Students who feel safe and supported at school naturally do better in school

Effective School-based Supports…

- Inclusive curriculum
- Supportive educators
- Non-discriminatory school policies
- Using the chosen name of trans youth
- Staff training
- Supportive of student clubs

Data Sources: The 2017 National School Climate Survey, GLSEN; Side by Side, 2019; The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, 2019