

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS KENDRA LARA AND JULIA MEJIA, MURPHY, BOK, ARROYO, BREADON, COLETTA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLAHERTY, LOUIJEUNE, WORRELL AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF LGBTQ+ STUDENTS IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS,** 100's of anti-trans bills have been passed across the country, mainly targeting school-aged children in the last year. Whether they prohibit teaching in schools about trans people and related topics, mandate educators to disclose a child's sexual orientation and gender identity to their parents without the child's consent, or forbid trans youth from participating in school sports based on their gender identity, this kind of political hypervisibility without systems of support and protection make students vulnerable; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In a 2015 survey from the National Center for Transgender Equality, 77 percent of trans people reported being harassed in K-12 schools. 1 out of 4 trans people reported being physically attacked at school, and more than 1 in 10 reported being sexually assaulted; *and*
- WHEREAS,** According to the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ+ youth report in 2019, 40% of LGBTQ high school students across Massachusetts experienced discrimination of some form in their schools; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This includes discrimination based on public displays of affection at school, using the locker room that aligns with a student's gender identity, using a chosen name or gender pronoun, and discussing LGBTQ issues in assignments; *and*
- WHEREAS** According to the High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2019 (YRBS), LGBTQ+ youth in Boston make up 15% of the Boston Public High School population; *and*
- WHEREAS,** LGBTQ+ youth in Boston Public Schools, particularly queer BIPOC youth, face a disproportionate level of bullying and harassment based on their gender identity or sexual orientation; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Responses to 2019 YRBS show that lesbian, gay, and bisexual high school students in Boston Public Schools reported a higher tendency than their heterosexual counterparts to engage in nearly all risk behavior related to social, emotional, and mental health categories, including feelings of hopelessness, suicide attempts, and being bullied; *and*

WHEREAS, This year, Boston Public Schools announced its student-centered Quality Guarantee through its 1.3 billion dollar budget that would invest in developing and implementing a quality guarantee framework, supporting accelerated academic outcomes for students, and offering resources to adopt the MassCore curriculum; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools' five-year Strategic Plan focuses on academic recovery for BPS students - with a particular focus on the social-emotional wellbeing and development of students most in need. To this end, we can ensure LGBTQ+ students are also centered in the conversation, recognizing that each student needs time, care, and attention to succeed academically; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the academic performance and social-emotional well-being of LGBTQ+ students in Boston Public Schools. Representatives from the City of Boston, including the Mayor's office of LGBTQIA+ Advancement, Boston Public Schools, LGBTQ+ students, LGBTQ+ teachers, LGBTQ+ parents or guardians, community advocates, and members of the public are encouraged to testify.

Filed on: July 13, 2022