



The School Board of Broward County, Florida

RESOLUTION

No. 22-68

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE APRIL 8, 2022

WHEREAS, in April 1996, the National Day of Silence was created at the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, hundreds of thousands of students from more than 9,000 K-12 schools, colleges and universities organized Day of Silence events. These numbers make the Day of Silence one of the largest student-led actions in the United States. The event has drawn significant attention to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) issues in schools over the years; and

WHEREAS the national focus of the Day of Silence is to help end LGBT bullying and prevent harassment of students, particularly physical violence and verbal threats; and

WHEREAS, according to the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network's (GLSEN) 2013 School Climate Survey, 30% of LGBT students missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable, 85% of students surveyed were verbally harassed (e.g., called names or threatened) in the past year because of their sexual orientation, and 63.9% because of their gender expression; and

WHEREAS, it was also determined a greater number of educators supportive of LGBT students was also associated with higher educational aspiration; and LGBT students in schools with Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) were more likely to feel safe in school than students whose schools do not have a GSA; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Broward County, Florida supports the development and expansion of Gay-Straight Alliance Clubs in schools throughout Broward County to nurture and value all identities; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Broward County, Florida has taken appropriate measures to curtail LGBTQ bullying and harassment in general through the Anti-Bullying Policy of the School Board of Broward County, Florida adopted July 22, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Day of Silence is most effective when schools and students work together to show their commitment to ensure safer schools for all students; and

WHEREAS, there is no single way to participate, and students are encouraged to take part in the way that is most positive and uplifting to their school; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Broward County, Florida appreciates and recognizes the importance of the National Day of Silence as an effective tool in the fight for equal protection of all Broward County students; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The School Board of Broward County, Florida hereby declares its support of:

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE