



## **Celebrating Pride at Chicago Public Schools:**

Chicago Public Schools is committed to making safe and affirming spaces for all LGBTQ+ students and staff in all schools. CPS demonstrates support for LGBTQ+ students and staff in many ways. For example, the [CPS Five-Year Vision](#) (pg.18) goal is for every school to have a Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) by 2024. Celebrating Pride month as a school is in alignment with CPS' mission for every student to feel safe and supported by their school community.

## **FAQs**

### **What is Pride?**

"Pride is more than just a month of celebrations and recognition of the LGBTQ+ community. It's a protest and a fight for equality. It's collaboration and support across other marginalized communities." ([GLSEN](#))

### **How do I celebrate Pride in the Classroom/School?**

- Include LGBTQ+ History in your curricula
- Put PRIDE Flags, pictures of LGBTQ+ figures, and other supportive materials on school walls/bulletins
- Start or co-sponsor a GSA (Gender & Sexuality Alliance)
- Host a Pride Week (for example, on Monday: dress as your favorite LGBTQ+ character/icon)
- Request [pronoun pins or OUT for Safe Schools Badges](#) from the Office of Student Health & Wellness

### **Can I teach LGBTQ+ History in the classroom?**

Yes! The state of Illinois requires [teaching LGBTQ+ History in all Illinois Public Schools](#). As a federally and state-funded district, we must include LGBTQ+ history into our curriculum and lessons. The teaching of LGBTQ+ history allows LGBTQ+ students to see themselves reflected in the curriculum. It allows other students to learn about different communities and become more respectful and



affirming of others.

### **Can students opt-out of LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum?**

No. Per state law, parents/guardians can opt out their student(s) from the Sexual Health Education Curriculum. This law does not apply to other LGBTQ+ inclusive curricula.

### **Can I put Pride flags and other LGBTQ+ affirming materials in my classroom?**

Yes! We encourage you to do so!

### **How do I handle parent/caregiver pushback when teaching LGBTQ+ history / Pride celebrations?**

- Inform parents/caregivers about the District's non-discrimination policy, [Guidelines Regarding the Support of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students](#), [Title IX](#), and the [Illinois state mandate of teaching LGBTQ+ history](#).
- Numerous studies have demonstrated that LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum and school policies are associated with lower rates of peer victimization and higher attendance rates for ALL students due to a decrease in safety concerns.
- For additional support, please contact [OSHW@cps.edu](mailto:OSHW@cps.edu).

## Resources:

- [Pride Month Resources](#)
- [Celebrate Pride Guide](#)
- [A study examining the relationship between LGBTQ-supportive school health policies and psychosocial outcomes](#)
  
- LGBTQ+ Book List:
  - [Safe & Supportive Environments Library](#)
  - [Annotated Bibliography of Books About Gender Diversity for Teens](#)
  - [Welcoming Schools Secondary Resources](#)
  
- CPS: [LGBTQ+ Supportive Environment](#)
  - [Guidelines Regarding the Support of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students](#)
  - [Guidelines Regarding the Support of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Employees](#)
  - [Supporting LGBTQ+ Young People: Tips for Parents and Caregivers](#)
  - [Key Terms for Understanding LGBTQ+ Identities](#)
  
- *If your school is hosting a Pride event, we would love to know and potentially highlight them. Reach out to [lgbtq@cps.edu](mailto:lgbtq@cps.edu)*

For more information visit [www.CPS.edu/HealthyCPS](http://www.CPS.edu/HealthyCPS)

Questions? Email [OSHW@cps.edu](mailto:OSHW@cps.edu) or call the **Healthy CPS Hotline 773-553-KIDS (5437)**.