INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM FOR ILLINOIS

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The Inclusive Curriculum Law (Public Act 101-0227) was signed on August 9, 2019 by Governor J. B. Pritzker and will go into effect July 2020. Spearheaded by Equality Illinois, Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, a program of Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (PHIMC), and the Legacy Project, this law amends the Illinois School Code to include the contributions of the LGBT community in the history of Illinois and the United States and ensures instructional materials include protected classes found within the Illinois Human Rights Act.

VISION

The Inclusive Curriculum Law offers public school students a more accurate, complete, and equitable picture of American society and provides LGBTQ+ students the opportunity to see themselves represented in history.

Parents, teachers, and administrators will...

- Identify and comprehend age-appropriate content
- Be provided with quality resources, such as professional development, content, and other educational tools as a means to feel comfortable and confident in implementing inclusive curricula
- Support educators to implement inclusive curriculum with fidelity; this can include bringing professional development to the district, knowing when and how resources can be accessed, and other strategies to lay the groundwork for an inclusive curriculum

IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Inclusion of LGBTQ+ history in curriculum...

- Instills in students the intrinsic worth of all individuals and the value of a diverse society
- Encourages positive educational outcomes and successes of all students
- Provides LGBTQ+ students an opportunity to see themselves reflected in the classroom
- Promotes the creation of a safe and affirming school climate, including lowering rates of bullying, harassment, and intimidation

Nationally, more than 75% of LGBTQ+ students in schools with an inclusive curriculum said their peers were accepting of LGBTQ+ people, compared to just 39.6% of those in schools without an inclusive curriculum. Additionally, LGBTQ+ students in schools with an inclusive curriculum are less likely to skip school and are less likely to say they might not graduate high school.¹

¹GLSEN 2017 National School Climate Survey.

This document is in draft form and may be subject to updates.

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THE INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM LAW IS SUPPORTED BY

ACLU of Illinois
Adler University
African-American Lesbian Professionals Having A Say (Quad Cities)
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital
Anti-Defamation League
Asian-Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago
Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action (ALMA) Chicago
Broadway Youth Center, a Program of Howard Brown Health
Central Illinois Pride Health Center
Changing Worlds
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus
Chicago History Museum
Chicago Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights
Chicago Teachers Union
Citizen Action/Illinois
Facing History and Ourselves
Garfield Park Behavioral Hospital
GLSEN
Howard Brown Health Center
Human Rights Educators USA
Illinois AFL-CIO
Illinois Association of School Social Workers
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Illinois Department of Human Rights
Illinois for Educational Equity
Illinois Federation of Teachers
Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center
Illinois NOW
Illinois Parent Teacher Association
Illinois School Counselor Association
Legal Council for Health Justice
Local 881 United Food & Commercial Workers
National Association of Social Workers – Illinois Chapter
Office of the Cook County Board President
Peer Health Exchange
Peoria Proud
PFLAG Belleville
PFLAG Charleston
PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois
Phoenix Center (Springfield)
Planned Parenthood of Illinois
Prairie Pride Coalition (Bloomington-Normal)
Pride Action Tank
Rainbow Café (Carbondale)
SEIU Healthcare Illinois & Indiana
Teach Plus Illinois

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