



Resolution 2024-2025-008

Proclaiming the Celebration of National Coming Out Day

WHEREAS, October 11th is recognized as National Coming Out Day, and this will be the 36th celebration of the day that promotes a safe world for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, two-spirit, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQ2SIA+) individuals and their allies to live truthfully and openly;

WHEREAS, National Coming Out Day was founded 36 years ago by Robert Eichberg and Jean O'Leary who envisioned a world where LGBTQ2SIA+ people could live truthfully and openly. They believed that honest and genuine relationships would undermine the pervasive prejudice about LGBTQ2SIA+ concerns. Thirty-six years later, that vision still holds true;

WHEREAS, LGBTQ2SIA+ students who can identify an out LGBTQ2SIA+ school staff or adult ally report a dramatic increase in feeling safe overall at their school;

WHEREAS, almost 25% of students either have an LGBTQ2SIA+ family member or identify as LGBTQ2SIA+ themselves;

WHEREAS, sexual orientation and gender-expression-biased bullying are among the most common forms of harassment in schools;

WHEREAS, the school-dropout rate for LGBTQ2SIA+ students is up to triple the national rate of non-LGBTQ2SIA+ students, due to peer harassment and bullying;

WHEREAS, tragically, youth identifying as LGBTQ2SIA+ are overrepresented in the populations of youth experiencing homelessness, youth who are the victims of bullying, and youth who have attempted or died as a result of suicide;

WHEREAS, Reynolds School District, through its Every Student Belongs policy, is committed to creating a high quality educational experience free from discrimination or harassment based on perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin;

WHEREAS, we strive to ensure that the District is a consistently safe and affirming space for all students and their families; and

WHEREAS, we affirm our commitment to a safe and affirming space by recognizing National Coming Out Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by recognizing October 11th as National Coming Out Day, we the Governing Board of Reynolds School District, support policies, practices and curriculum that support a safe and affirming space for all stakeholders and honor and respect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, two-spirit, intersex, and asexual staff, students and their families.

Adopted this 25th day of September 2024.

Signed:

Attest:

A blue ink signature of the Chair of the Reynolds School Board of Directors.

Chair, Reynolds School Board of Directors

A blue ink signature of the Superintendent / Clerk.

Superintendent / Clerk