



September 23, 2022

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago stands in support of LGBTQIA+ students and curricula that reflect and include these identities. As a leading Illinois hospital, Lurie Children's recognizes that there are numerous negative health outcomes tied to rejection and harassment in schools and therefore remains committed to supporting access to inclusive and affirming education.

According to the GLSEN National School Climate Survey, 85 percent of sexual and gender minority students are subjected to harassment and discrimination at school. Research consistently shows that LGBTQIA+ students face heightened risk for violence, harassment, and social exclusion in school, which are linked to lower levels of school engagement and academic achievement and increased health risk behaviors such as substance abuse, suicidal ideation, and depression. Hostile school environments are harmful for LGBTQIA+ students and negatively impact all students.

Everyone deserves to feel safe and supported at school. Affirming and inclusive practices create an environment where students of every gender are given an equal opportunity for educational attainment. Lurie Children's stands in opposition to hate, transphobia, and homophobia in schools and calls on school boards to ensure that public schools remain a beacon of safety for all students. School districts must set an example of understanding, kindness, and respect for the entire community, especially for students. We remain a resource to districts that are committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment where all students of every identity can learn and succeed.