



Tucson Unified School District LGBTQIA+

The Tucson Unified School District actively strives to support LGBTQ+ students and families to foster an environment where every student feels safe, valued, and respected. Research underscores the importance of such efforts. According to a 2022 Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Educator Network (GLSEN) report, nationally LGBTQ+ students experience elevated rates of verbal and physical harassment due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. This highlights the need for all school districts to provide robust support systems that safeguard LGBTQ+ students.

Additionally, LGBTQ+ students are significantly more likely to suffer from behavioral health challenges. The Trevor Project's 2023 survey found that 45% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, a figure that rises among transgender and nonbinary students. These realities make clear the role that schools must play in offering inclusive spaces where students can thrive without fear of discrimination or violence.

Collective empathy is essential in this endeavor. It's important to acknowledge the unique struggles LGBTQ+ students face and recognize that their emotional and physical safety is paramount. LGBTQ+ inclusive policies, such as anti-bullying programs, PBIS programs, and professional development signal that TUSD is committed to nurturing an environment where diversity is celebrated.

TUSD strives to actively engage LGBTQ+ families, ensuring that their concerns are heard and addressed in a meaningful way.

By committing to the emotional and physical safety of all students, TUSD is hoping to send a powerful message: every child matters, and no one should feel unsafe or unsupported because of who they are. Supporting LGBTQ+ students is not only a moral imperative but also a critical step toward building a more inclusive, equitable education system where everyone can succeed.