



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Youth Pride Inc.

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Youth Pride, Inc. (YPI) joins 14 Organizations Calling on R.I. School Districts to Reaffirm Transgender Student Rights

In the wake of the Trump Administration's repeal of federal guidance that clarified the protections available to transgender students under federal law and the reaffirmation of R.I. Department of Education's Guidance on Transgender and Non-Conforming Students, 15 organizations have called on R.I. school districts to adopt a formal policy on protecting transgender students.

Youth Pride, Inc. (YPI) joins 14 other organizations calling on R.I. School Districts to reaffirm the rights of transgender students to “forcefully and publically reaffirm” their school districts’ commitment to “providing a safe, protective and non-discriminatory space” within their schools. The Trump Administration’s repeal of federal guidance that provided practical and tangible advice on how schools could provide protections for transgender students under federal law, sends a harmful message to transgender youth that their government is not willing to stand up and protect their rights. These messages are deeply troubling because we know that transgender youth already experience increased anxiety, depression and suicide due to bullying, harassment, violence and rejection.

“This is why it is so important for schools to clearly and quickly counter the harmful message of the Trump Administration,” said Chris Lauth, Executive Director of Youth Pride. “We need to be pro-active in affirming a safe and supportive learning environment for our transgender students and school districts need an inclusive policy to clearly cite just how that full inclusion will look within their schools.”

Youth Pride commends both the R.I. Department of Education for their reaffirmation of their guidance on protecting transgender students, and school districts who already have transgender inclusion policy in place – including Providence, East Greenwich, Cumberland and South Kingstown.

Youth Pride works with many school districts across Rhode Island, providing training and education on LGBTQ competency and sensitivity, including consulting work to help districts draft and adopt their own trans-inclusive policies.

[View a copy of the letter](#) sent to all school district superintendents. As a supplement to the letter, the ACLU of Rhode Island has filed a separate open records request with each school district to obtain a copy of their policies addressing the rights and protections afforded transgender students. [Read the ACLU of Rhode Island press release.](#)

About Youth Pride Inc.

Youth Pride, Inc (YPI) is an affirming space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and questioning young people to build community, develop connections and be themselves. YPI is dedicated to the unique needs of youth and young adults impacted by sexual orientation and gender identity/expression while working to end the homophobic and transphobic environments in which they live, work and play. We also provide professional development and training for youth service workers, social service organizations and schools so that they have the information and resources to treat all youth with respect and dignity.