

Creating Safer Dallas Schools for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students, Parents, and Teachers

Lambda Legal and Dallas Independent School District (DISD) have been working together to ensure that the school district continues to provide a safe and equal learning and work environment for lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

The District's Nondiscrimination policy states: "The School District is an equal opportunity educational provider and employer, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, and/or age in its educational programs and activities and employment decisions."

In order to more fully carry out this policy with regards to sexual orientation, DISD will:

- Include training on LGBT issues as part of the regular diversity trainings for staff.
- Allow LGBT groups such as Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), or Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG) to provide in-service trainings for teachers.
- Use LGBT- friendly forms such as permission slips. The forms will refer to "Parent 1" and "Parent 2" instead of or in addition to "Father" and "Mother."
- Provide and make visible LGBT-friendly materials in libraries. Books, posters and other materials with LGBT themes and topics will no longer be held behind school library counters and individuals will no longer have to ask to view these materials.
- Allow access to websites of LGBT organizations that are currently blocked, such as that of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), and Youth First Texas.

- Make Lambda Legal materials on the rights of LGBTQ youth* available at all middle and high school Counseling Offices.

For more information about these agreements, or if you have questions or concerns about how these agreements are being carried out, please contact:

Dallas Independent School District
Mary McCants
Operations Executive
Office of Legal Services
Mmcants@dallasisd.org
(972) 925 - 3250

or

Lambda Legal's Help Desk at 214-219-8585 or toll free at 1-866-542-8336

Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

- * Lambda Legal's materials on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth rights include;
- *Out Safe and Respected, Your Rights at School*
- *Bending the Mold, an Action Kit for Transgender Youth*

For more information about ordering these and/or other materials, contact Lambda Legal, or visit us on the web at www.lambdalegal.org.