



For Young LGBTQ Lives

July 29, 2022

Kettle Moraine School District  
563 A.J. Allen Circle  
Wales, WI 53183

**RE: SUPPORT - Inclusive School Policies and Classrooms**

Dear Kettle Moraine School District Board Members,

The Trevor Project writes to show our concern regarding the recent School Board votes to roll back district policies that will explicitly impact lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer and questioning (LGBTQ) students in Kettle Moraine School District. Schools play a critical role in creating positive and affirming environments for LGBTQ youth, and inclusive behavior modeled by educators is crucial.

The Trevor Project is the world's largest suicide prevention and mental health organization for LGBTQ young people. The Trevor Project offers a suite of 24/7 crisis intervention and suicide prevention programs, including TrevorLifeline, TrevorText, and TrevorChat as well as the world's largest safe space social networking site for LGBTQ youth, TrevorSpace.

According to The Trevor Project's [2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health](#), 45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth. However, LGBTQ youth who had access to spaces that affirmed their sexual orientation and gender identity – including schools – reported lower rates of attempting suicide than those who did not.

Educators play an essential role in creating affirming environments for their LGBTQ students. Having the ability to model their support through displays of the rainbow pride flag and email signatures that include their pronouns signals to young people that they're a safe person, who may struggle to identify supportive adults otherwise. LGBTQ youth who report having at least one accepting adult are [40% less likely](#) to report a suicide attempt. Further, LGBTQ youth in schools with an LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum, and by extension, classroom practices,

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were [more likely to report](#) that their peers were somewhat or very accepting of LGBTQ people and less likely to experience harassment or feeling unsafe. Inclusive school environments for LGBTQ youth also play an [important role](#) in their academic achievement, which can impact the trajectory of their continuing education and career.

Opposition to inclusive school practices is part of a broader movement to not only oppose LGBTQ-inclusive policies but also to erase conversations of LGBTQ people and identities from schools entirely. It's crucial that we continue to foster inclusive and affirming school environments for LGBTQ youth, and as members of the Kettle Moraine School District Board, you have the opportunity to model inclusive and affirming behavior by revisiting conversations and rulings about the recent, discriminatory policies.

LGBTQ youth should be able to thrive in learning environments that are supportive and affirming of all students. For these reasons, The Trevor Project urges the Kettle Moraine School District Board Members to vote in favor of reversing the harmful rulings that prevent educators from displaying pride flags in their classroom and including pronouns in their email signature. Should you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at [gabby.doyle@thetrevorproject.org](mailto:gabby.doyle@thetrevorproject.org).



**Gabrielle Doyle**

Advocacy Campaign Manager

The Trevor Project