



Miami- Dade County Public Schools
Division of Student Services
School Allies for Equity Network (SAFE)
Honoring Diverse Orientations and Genders
Fact Sheet 2019



District Demographic Data

M-DCPS is the fourth largest school district in the nation. As of 2016-17, MDCPS has over 476 schools: Elementary School = 211; K-8 Center = 75; Middle School = 75; Senior High Schools = 74; Combination Schools = 19; Alternative Education Schools/Centers = 22.

Student Statistics

- Total Student Population: 350,040
- 81,654 students receive Special Education Services (SPED).
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) K-12: 63,826
- Seventy percent of students district-wide are eligible and receive free/reduced lunch.

Staff Statistics

- Total Instructional Personnel: 37,830
- Elementary = 7,624
- Secondary = 5,304
- Exceptional Student Ed. = 3,877
- School Counselors = 706

What is the SAFE Network?

The School Allies for Equity Network, formerly known as Sexual Minority Network, is a Student Services District Program that has been in existence for 26 years. The mission of the network is to provide school and district employees with the knowledge necessary to build comprehensive and inclusive programs of support for all students and parents including students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ). All schools have designated liaisons that receive specialized professional development focused on building expertise in program development and delivery of these comprehensive services. Program elements include the provision of individual, group, and family counseling services; community resource information; support group and social networking opportunities; and providing or coordinating anti-bullying prevention and educational activities. These services are provided with the focus of increasing resiliency, self-esteem, and school/social/familial supports.

District Policies Supporting GLBTQ

According to School Board Policy 8405, Miami-Dade County Public Schools is committed to maintaining a safe and drug-free environment in all schools.

School Board Policy - 1362, 3362, 5517 – ANTI-DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discrimination/harassment based on sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identification, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation against an employee or student for engaging in a protected activity is prohibited.

School Board Policy - 5517.01 – BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

Bullying, Harassment, Cyberbullying, and Discrimination (as referred to and defined herein) encompasses, but is not limited to, unwanted harm towards a student or employee based on or with regard to **actual or perceived**: sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability (physical, mental, or educational), marital status, socio-economic background, ancestry, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, linguistic preference, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or social/family background. This policy prohibits bullying or harassment of any student by any Board member, District employee, consultant, contractor, agent, visitor, volunteer, student, or other person in the school or outside of the school at school-sponsored events, on school buses, and at training facilities or training programs sponsored by the District.



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Professional Development

- Liaisons can attend individualized training sessions on current research and best practices.
- School Social Workers, School Counselors, and TRUST Counselors have been trained on LGBTQ awareness and best practices.
- Substance abuse prevention and education
- Sexual Health and Other Issues Impacting GLBTQ Youth
- Increasing Awareness of Human Trafficking
- Anti-Bullying Prevention and Educational Practices
- Suicide Prevention

Youth Activities – District Events/Initiatives

- Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) Leadership Summits
- Day of Silence
- Ally Week
- Peace Week
- Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Anti-Bullying Student Campaigns
- BESAFE Anonymous Reporting System
- MCCJ - Student Voices
- No Place for Hate – Anti-Defamation League
- Diversity Day
- Building Safer Schools for LGBTQ Students

Future Plans

- Expand professional development activities to instructional, non-instructional, and non-school based professionals
- Expand Student Sensitivity and Awareness Campaigns
- Create and Deliver Administrative Training
- Expand Website Presence
- Expand Parent Resources
- Expand GSA Clubs
- Expand Support Groups in Schools

Ongoing Collaboration and Partnerships with Community Agencies

- Alliance for LGBTQ Youth
- Safe Schools of South Florida
- Equality Florida
- Anti-Defamation League
- Pridelines Youth Services
- National GSA Network
- YES Institute
- Jewish Community Services
- MCCJ - Student Voices
- PFLAG

District Contact Information

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