

The Crisis: LGBTQ+ Students in American Public Schools

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What We Know

Nearly half of LGBTQ+ young people live in the 27 states where a swell of new laws restrict their in-school rights.



90% of LGBTQ people ages 13 to 24 said politics has had a negative impact on their well-being

BUT

The presence of *even one* supportive educator in a child's life has long been shown to reduce rates of suicidality, anxiety and depression.



Shifting Policies, Rising Risks for LGBTQ+ Students



Policy Rollbacks for LGBTQ+ Student Protections



Department of Education Threatening School Funding

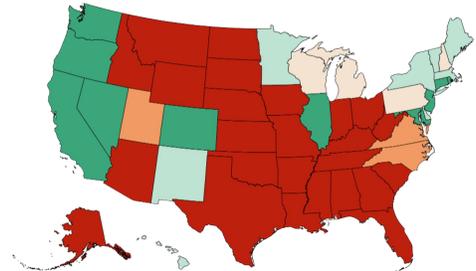


Supreme Court Rulings



Nearly two-thirds of all states have a negative or low overall LGBTQ youth policy score

- High LGBTQ youth overall tally (10 states)
- Medium LGBTQ youth overall tally (8 states + D.C.)
- Fair LGBTQ youth overall tally (4 states)
- Low LGBTQ youth overall tally (3 states)
- Negative LGBTQ youth overall tally (25 states)

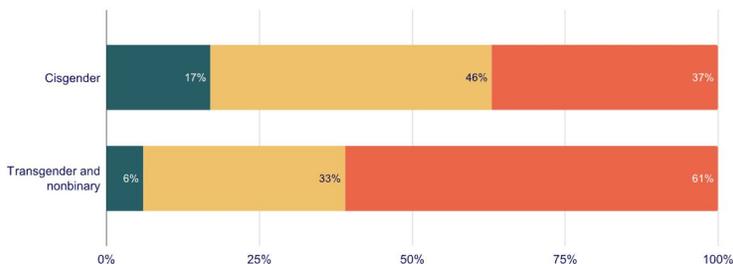


Source: MAP

HRC Foundation's Welcoming Schools

LGBTQ+ Young People Reporting the Frequency of Negative Political Impacts on Well-being, by Gender Identity

Never Sometimes A lot



HRC Foundation's Welcoming Schools

Since 2021, The Majority of Anti-LGBTQ Bills Have Targeted Youth and Education Specifically

of State Anti-LGBTQ Bills All Anti-LGBTQ Bills Youth & Education-Focused Anti-LGBTQ Bills



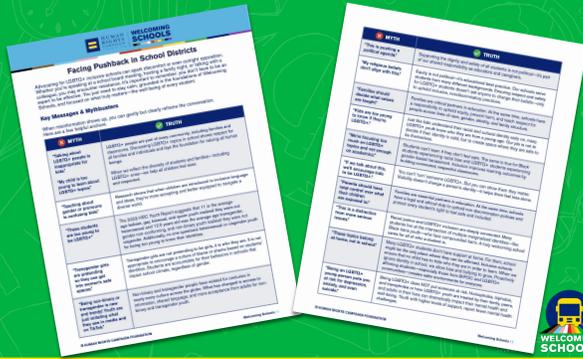
Source: HRC and Equality Federation's State Equality Index

Note: Texas, Montana, North Dakota, and Nevada were not in session in 2024.

HRC Foundation's Welcoming Schools



Dispelling Myths and Misinformation



What Can We Do?

- + Affirming Practices
- + Policies and Procedures
- + Direct Student Support
- + Capacity Building
- + Family and Community Engagement



Turning Crisis Into Courage

- + The mental health of LGBTQ+ youth is deeply shaped by what happens in classrooms and hallways.
- + Every student deserves to be in a school knowing they belong.
- + You are the quiet revolutionaries in this crisis - reminding LGBTQ+ students every day that who they are is exactly who they are meant to be.



WelcomingSchools.org | HRC.org

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