

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6 OF MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA  
RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND AFFIRMING LGBTQ+ STUDENTS AND STAFF

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of Washington Elementary School District No. 6 and the Washington Elementary School District No. 6 (collectively “WESD”) is committed to a learning environment that is physically, socially and emotionally safe for all students; and

WHEREAS, WESD is committed to fostering a welcoming and inclusive climate where LGBTQ+ students, families, and staff can live their authentic lives and be treated with dignity and respect; and,

WHEREAS, Nearly two-thirds (64%) of LGBTQ+ students in Arizona reported experiencing at least one form of anti-LGBTQ discrimination at school during the last year (GLSEN 2019); and,

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers with transgender and nonbinary youth being twice as likely to attempt suicide compared to their cisgender LGBQ peers (Trevor Project 2020); and,

WHEREAS, using students’ chosen name and gender-affirming pronouns has been shown to decrease risk of depression and suicide amongst LGBTQ+ youth (Journal of Adolescent Health, 2018); and,

WHEREAS, members of the LGBTQ+ community in Arizona continue to be politically targeted resulting in a reduction in rights for LGBTQ+ people and a “chilling effect” that has caused confusion and fear around legally permissible LGBTQ+ affirming actions,

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ educators in Arizona have been targeted and put on leave for expressing their gender identity or family status and/or being supportive of their students’ free expression; and,

WHEREAS, WESD believes it is our duty to honor, value, and affirm our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students, staff, and families through our policies, practices, and curriculum;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington Elementary School District No. 6 Governing Board affirms, supports, and values all students and staff and will continue to further efforts in our schools to create a welcoming, safe, and inclusive learning environment for our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington Elementary School District No. 6 condemns any action that dehumanizes, marginalizes, or violates the rights of transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students and staff; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington Elementary School District No. 6 governing board will review all WESD policies that currently include language about sex, which includes sexual orientations and transgender status (U.S. Supreme Court, Bostock v. Clayton) and amend them to include gender identity and expression; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Superintendent is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to all Washington Elementary School District No. 6 staff within one week of the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Adopted by the Governing Board of the Washington Elementary School District No. 6 of Maricopa County this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2022.

By:

\_\_\_\_\_ President

\_\_\_\_\_ Vice President

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