



10 Things Transgender Youth in Virginia Want from their Schools

In May 2016, Side by Side asked some of our transgender youth involved in our YEL (Youth Engaged in Leadership) program what they wanted from their schools. Here's what they said:

1. Inclusive non-discrimination policy.
2. Publicly state support for transgender students.
3. Allow transgender students to use the restroom that they feel comfortable in, and have gender-neutral/single-use restrooms available. Similarly, allow transgender students to participate in school activities that align with their gender identity.
4. Have a policy that protects the confidentiality of a student and not sharing their transgender identity with other students, faculty, staff, or parents.
5. Provide a designated support system for students coming out as transgender and provide a transition plan.
6. Hire transgender & LGBTQ+ faculty/staff, and ensure there are also LGBTQ+ faculty/staff of color.
7. Include transgender people and stories in curriculum, ensuring these are not always negative stories.
8. Be aware of the language when communicating with students (ex: avoid "good evening ladies")
9. Provide transgender students inclusive resources both at and outside of school.
10. Bring in support from outside to provide training, education, and workshops, not just for faculty/staff, but also for students.

Side by Side is dedicated to creating supportive communities where Virginia's LGBTQ+ youth can define themselves, belong, and flourish.



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