



As members of Alexandria’s PTA Council’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, we write in staunch opposition to Governor Youngkin’s so-called “model policies.” It is clear that these “Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students in Virginia’s Public Schools” will, if implemented, endanger the health, safety, and well-being of transgender students, especially those who live in unsafe or unsupportive households.

The PTA Council’s mission is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. The proposed policies are not in line with our mission. Not only do they seek to erase transgender and non-binary youth from the classrooms, these policies target them in ways that create a hostile and potentially dangerous school environment.

The proposed policies state that “the Virginia Department of Education (the ‘Department’) recognizes that each child is a unique individual with distinctive abilities and characteristics that should be valued and respected. *All* students have the right to attend school in an environment free from discrimination, harassment, or bullying.”

These policies are written purposefully to exclude some of our children, and will **not** create a learning environment that is safe for all students. Instead, they will result in school district policies that threaten transgender students’ ***identity and basic humanity***, ostracize them, and deprive them of the same opportunities afforded to cisgender students.

The proposed policies:

- Require teachers and school staff to forcibly "out" students to their parents against their will, such as when a student seeks gender related counseling; and allows teachers and school staff to refuse to provide counseling.
- Prohibit teachers and school staff from supporting transgender and non-binary students, such as using a student's affirming name and pronouns; and outright prevents the use of gender-neutral pronouns such as they/them.
- Create bathroom and sports policies that prohibit access to and/or participation in activities consistent with their gender identity.

We stand with our school division, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), as they continue their commitment to both implement and develop gender affirming policies for all ACPS students. They agree that these proposed “model policies” do not align with their mission, vision and core values to support all students and staff, in particular, their core value of ensuring they provide a welcoming environment for everyone in our shared school community. We support their commitment and will continue to work together to provide a safe, welcome and inclusive school environment for all of our children.

Our school division is committed to the fulfillment of its ACPS 2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All adopted by the School Board in June 2020. These “model policies” seek to undermine this

vital work and set the clock back on the gains our school division has accomplished to place racial equity at the heart of our work.

All of our children deserve basic humanity. Transgender rights are human rights. Our children - all of our children - deserve respect, and a safe environment in which to learn.

The PTAC Council of Alexandria's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee vehemently opposes the 2022 Model Policies in their entirety and demands the VDOE rescinds them and leaves the 2021 Model Policies in place. We PTA for **all** kids.

PTA COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

