



August 21, 2021

The Virginia School Counselor Association Leadership Team supports the [Virginia Department Of Education's Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools](#). As Virginia school counselors, we work to remove barriers and support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of ALL students. Every Virginia student, regardless of their gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, has a right to learn free from discrimination and harassment. Virginia school counselors commit to dismantling any and all forms of inequity in Virginia's public education system and fully support LGBTQ+ students.

Virginia school counselors follow the [ASCA Position Statement on The School Counselor and Transgender/Gender-nonconforming Youth](#) (Adopted 2016) that states:

School counselors recognize all students have the right to be treated equally and fairly with dignity and respect as unique individuals, free from discrimination, harassment and bullying based on their real or perceived gender identity and gender expression. School counselors work to safeguard the well-being of transgender and gender-nonconforming youth.

School counselors promote affirmation, respect and equal opportunity for all individuals regardless of gender identity or gender expression. School counselors encourage a safe and affirming school environment and promote awareness of and education on issues related to transgender and gender-nonconforming students.

As school counselors, we seek to create environments that are not only inclusive and equitable for our transgender, non-binary, and gender-fluid students, but that celebrate the full scope of their identities, allowing them to thrive and reach their academic, social-emotional, and college and career goals. We believe that the [Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools](#) provide school counselors, administrators, and other educators with the additional tools and supports needed to realize this vision.

In solidarity,

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