



**Miami- Dade County Public Schools
 Division of Student Services
 School Allies for Equity Network (SAFE)
 Honoring Diverse Orientations and Genders
 Fact Sheet 2021**



District Demographic Data

M-DCPS is the fourth largest school district in the nation. As of 2019-2020, MDCPS has over 480 schools: Elementary School = 165; K-8 Center = 53; Middle School = 48; Senior High Schools = 54; Combination Schools = 8; Alternative Education Schools/Centers = 12.

Student Statistics

- Total Student Population: 347,069
- 84,128 students receive Special Education Services (SPED).
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) K-12: 61,704
- Sixty eight percent of students district-wide are eligible and receive free/reduced lunch.

Staff Statistics

- Total Instructional Personnel: 37,696
- Elementary = 7,405
- Secondary = 5,168
- Exceptional Student Ed. = 4,016
- School Counselors = 704
- School Psychologist = 206
- School Social Worker = 141

What is the SAFE Network?

The School Allies for Equity Network, formerly known as Sexual Minority Network, is a Student Services District Program that has been in existence for 28 years. The mission of the network is to provide school and district employees with the knowledge necessary to build comprehensive and inclusive programs of support for all students and parents including students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ). All schools have designated liaisons that receive specialized professional development focused on building expertise in program development and delivery of these comprehensive services. Program elements include the provision of individual, group, and family counseling services; community resource information; support group and social networking opportunities; and providing or coordinating anti-bullying prevention and educational activities. These services are provided with the focus of increasing resiliency, self-esteem, and school/social/familial supports.

District Policies Supporting LGBTQ

According to School Board Policy 8405, Miami-Dade County Public Schools is committed to maintaining a safe and drug-free environment in all schools.

School Board Policy - 1362, 3362, 5517 – ANTI-DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discrimination/harassment based on sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identification, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation against an employee or student for engaging in a protected activity is prohibited.

School Board Policy - 5517.01 – BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

Bullying, Harassment, Cyberbullying, and Discrimination (as referred to and defined herein) encompasses, but is not limited to, unwanted harm towards a student or employee based on or with regard to **actual or perceived**: sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability (physical, mental, or educational), marital status, socio-economic background, ancestry, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, linguistic preference, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or social/family background. This policy prohibits bullying or harassment of any student by any Board member, District employee, consultant, contractor, agent, visitor, volunteer, student, or other person in the school or outside of the school at school-sponsored events, on school buses, and at training facilities or training programs sponsored by the District.



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Professional Development

- SAFE Liaisons must attend individualized training sessions on current research and best practices.
- School Social Workers, School Counselors, and TRUST Counselors have been trained on LGBTQ awareness and best practices.
- LGBTQ Suicide Prevention
- Affirming School Environments for LGBTQ youth
- Increasing Awareness of Human Trafficking
- Anti-Bullying Prevention and Educational Practices
- Substance abuse prevention and education with LGBTQ population

Youth Activities – District Events/Initiatives

- Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) Leadership Summit
- Day of Silence
- Ally Week
- Peace Week
- LGBTQ History Month
- Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Anti-Bullying Student Campaigns
- BESAFE Anonymous Reporting System
- MCCJ - Student Voices
- No Place for Hate – Anti-Defamation League
- Diversity Day
- Building Safer Schools for LGBTQ Students

Currently Planning

- Expansion of professional development activities to instructional, non-instructional, and non-school based professionals
- Expansion of Student Sensitivity and Awareness Campaigns
- Creating and Delivering Administrative Training
- Expansion of Website
- Expansion of Parent Resources
- Expansion of GSA Clubs
- Expansion of Support Groups in Schools

Ongoing Collaboration with The Miami Coalition for Queer Youth

- Alliance for LGBTQ Youth
- Safe Schools of South Florida
- Counsel and Connect
- Jewish Community Services
- Equality Florida
- Pridelines Youth Services
- YES Institute
- Soul Sisters
- Power U
- PFLAG
- MCCJ - Student Voices
- Lotus House

District Contact Information

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