

Dear Colleagues,

Most of us know that June is Pride Month within the LGBTQ+ community, as has been celebrated each year since the 1970's. Pride month has become a time of joy, community, and celebration of each person's unique and authentic identity. Today, 1 in 5 teens identify as LGBTQ+, which is more reason for educators to familiarize ourselves with ways to support our students!

In MSAD54 our mission is to ensure that every child comes to school feeling safe, welcome and respected for who they are. We know that as educators, we can have a profound impact on our students and on the culture of our community. What many of us may not fully realize, is that we hold the power to make our school community a more welcoming, safe, and accepting place for **all** students, including members of the LGBTQ+ community, simply through understanding and acceptance. We know through our trauma informed work as a district, that just one caring adult can make a difference in a student's life. Every single child deserves to have genuinely caring adults at school.

Below are some relevant resources made available for the purpose of inclusive education in public schools. In addition to these resources, which were taken directly from the resources on the [Maine DOE website](#), additional resources can be found at: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/LGBTQ>.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the available websites and organizations that are here to support us in this work for our kids. These are topics that can also be discussed in context with many content areas already covered.

MSAD 54 Civil Rights Team Site

<https://sites.google.com/msad54.org/msad-54-crtp/home>

Out Maine <https://outmaine.org/>

Equality Maine <https://www.equalitymaine.org/>

Discussing Gender in the Classroom

<https://www.learningforjustice.org/professional-development/webinars/lets-talk-gender>

Best Practices for LGBTQ+ Inclusive Youth Programming

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15z3cGPWTKAT465LVJuwgT9bBkgb70av3/view>

Best Practices Classroom Culture and Curriculum <https://www.learningforjustice.org/professional-development/webinars/lgbtq-best-practices-classroom-culture-and-curriculum>

Again, additional resources can be found directly on the [Maine Department of Education Website](#).

These resources are a good place to start, and your district Civil Rights Team Advisors are also happy to offer support. Together we can work to make MSAD 54 an even more inclusive community than we already are. Please join us in committing to this important work.

Thank you,

MSAD 54 Civil Rights Team Advisors