

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of School Operations

Ramon C. Cortines
Superintendent of Schools



Michelle King
Chief of Staff
Earl R. Perkins
Assistant Superintendent

October 5, 2010

Dear LAUSD Staff,

The human costs of bullying are high. The human costs of bullying for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth is extraordinary. The facts are that 9 out of 10 students perceived to be LGBTQ report being harassed daily at our schools. At no time in history have the statistics for LGBTQ related bullying been so costly: five youth suicides within a three-week period.

It is important to recognize that LGBTQ populations are particularly vulnerable to family and peer rejection during the beginning stages of "coming out", before they have shared with anyone that they might be LGBT. This emphasizes the need for a systemic effort to provide support. It is time to take a proactive stance, and ensure our LGBTQ students have a safe place at school.

We are fortunate that the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), headquartered in Washington, DC and New York City, NY, have joined the LAUSD in their efforts and have donated 1,500 copies of their safety kit to you:

- Safe Space Kit: Guide to Being an Ally to LGBT Students, (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, New York City, NY; 2009)

The GLSEN Safe Space Kit is intended to assist you and your staff in creating and maintaining a culture of respect and support for youth who identify as LGBTQ and for all students.

The **LGBTQ Resource Packet** is being distributed by Health Education Programs, HIV/AIDS Prevention Unit, which is a branch of the LAUSD Student Health and Human Services. It provides information on services available for LGBTQ youth at LAUSD and in the community. *The Safe Space Kit has been included in this packet of resources.*

Five resource packets have been sent to your site intended for the principal, school nurse, counselor, and health teachers.

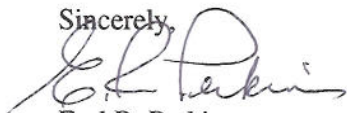
Review these kits yourself and share them with your entire staff. Your school's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) sponsor may already be a valuable resource for you. The ideas for being supportive and protective are not new. However, a little brush up will go a long way in making school a safe place to be an LGBTQ student, staff, family or community member.

You may direct questions to the following resource staff:

- Judy Chiasson at (213) 241-5626, or at judy.chiasson@lausd.net
- Stephen Jimenez at (213) 241-614, or at stephen.jimenez@lausd.net
- Tim Kordic at (213) 241-3519, or at timothy.kordic@lausd.net
- Wayne Scott Moore at (213) 241-5337, or at wayne.scott.moore@lausd.net

Please, let us know how we can assist you.

Sincerely,



Earl R. Perkins