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Superintendent Statement on LGBT Youth and their safety in school

Dear PVUSD Community,

California Education Code §§ 200, 201, and 220, in particular, place upon the District the affirmative obligation to combat racism, sexism, and other forms of bias, including sexual orientation and gender identity bias, within its schools. Similarly, both the state and federal constitution guarantee the District's students and staff equal protection under the law. The District, and I as the superintendent, has an affirmative obligation under California and federal law to provide a safe (free from harassment and discrimination) educational environment for its LGBT students and staff.

An essential part of that obligation includes advocating acceptance and respect for LGBT students and staff, in the same way we do for all students and staff. This includes the fact that all staff has an affirmative duty to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students from verbal and physical abuse from their peers. It is also the school district's responsibility to protect a teacher's or a student's constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression and speech as supported by Education Code § 48907.

It will be our continued and firm commitment to protect the safety of all students and staff on all of our campuses, providing a safe place to learn and to teach.