

State and Local Proclamation Campaign: Rise Up for LGBTQI2S+ Youth

As state legislatures across the country continue to pass a slate of anti-LGBTQI2S+ and anti-education legislation, GLSEN is working with state-based advocates on a proclamation campaign in response, to support our Rise Up for LGBTQI2S+ Youth campaign, which calls on every adult in a position of authority who supports equal educational opportunity and believes that schools must be free from transphobia, homophobia, racism, and all forms of systemic oppression to rise up and say so.

Schools must at minimum be safe and ultimately places of liberation where every young person can thrive and reach their full potential. Every student deserves to know they are loved, safe, and supported as their authentic selves. Anti-LGBTQI2S+ bills have passed and been enacted across the country, and more students are being stripped of safe and affirming schools, learning environments, books and resources.

This back-to-school season, we must seek to transform false narratives that deepen hate by supporting our young people in public ways. Our Rise Up campaign is throughout 2023 and 2024, calling to action communities across the country to demand equal educational opportunity, basic civil rights protections, and freedom from erasure for all students, including LGBTQI2S+ young people in K-12 schools. From Washington State, to Colorado, to Maine, Massachusetts, Florida localities and more — electeds and adults in positions of power are Rising Up for LGBTQI2S+ Youth in Schools, and we urge others to join us.

How to get involved during this back-to-school season:

1. Learn more and take the Rise Up pledge: <https://www.glsen.org/riseup>.
2. Check GLSEN's Rise Up Map to find out if your Governor/Mayor has issued a proclamation or letter of support: <https://maps.glsen.org/rise-up-proclamations/>.
3. If your state/locality is not on the map, reach out to your Governor/Mayors and request that they join in demanding equal educational opportunities and basic Civil Rights protections, and ultimately education justice for all students. A toolkit for action can be found [here](#).
4. If your Mayor/Governor has already joined the campaign, you can continue to spread the word and thank your elected officials for Rising Up for LGBTQI2S+ Youth using this [social media toolkit](#).

To share received proclamations, for more information, or technical assistance, please reach out to policy@glSEN.org.