

Positive Space Messaging for Parents

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Prepared By: Communications

Prepared For: Trustees, Principals, TLDSB Staff

Stakeholder / Target Audience: Parents, Media

Question / Concern / Scenario:

Trillium Lakelands District School Board has launched a positive space initiative as part of Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy. A Positive Space plaque has been developed and provided as a visible representation of the initiative in all schools following discussion between principals, staff, and the school council.

Key Message 1

Key Message 2

Key Message 3

TLDSB believes in safe and caring school communities.

Schools educate about homophobia and inclusive environments.

People need to feel respected and reflected in their school.

Supporting Information 1-1

Supporting Information 2-1

Supporting Information 3-1

Positive Space is one of many initiatives the school board is implementing to promote a safe and caring school climate for all. This includes providing ongoing training and resources in character development, aboriginal rights, religious accommodation, and accessibility rights.

Language and education that is age and stage appropriate will be used when explaining terms from the Positive Space plaque and will be embedded in curriculum.

LGBT is not a lifestyle or a choice in the same way that being heterosexual is not a choice.

It is important to provide a school climate that breaks through any fear and stigma so that students feel safe enough to ask for help.

Staff and others who feel knowledgeable and/or open to conversations about LGBT issues may voluntarily display Positive Space stickers.

Supporting information 1-2

Supporting Information 2-2

Supporting Information 3-2

There are LGBT students, staff, and parents in all school communities.

All TLDSB staff and students are expected to show respect for all members of their school community.

The rainbow colours and the term "Positive Space" on the plaque are globally recognized as an LGBT symbol. The wording in the Positive Space plaque includes all members of the school community – family, friends, and allies.

Education practices have traditionally implied that all people are heterosexual.

Some negative experiences are unique to sexual orientation and gender minority groups.

Supporting information 1-3

Supporting Information 2-3

Supporting Information 3-3

LGBT youth are four times more likely to commit suicide than their heterosexual peers. They are nine times more likely to commit suicide when they are rejected by their families.

Parents who would like further information, and have already spoken with the school principal, may contact the school superintendent. Parents can find more information at www.tlgsb.ca

There will be discussions at every school between the principal, staff, and school councils to determine the initial placement of the plaque with the eventual goal of a plaque posted prominently in every school.