

# TRANS KIDS BELONG

In every grade,  
at every age.



**O**n March 31, the International Day of Transgender Visibility, the fight to support and protect transgender kids is more important than ever.

Recently, south of the border, Texas Governor Greg Abbott ordered State child welfare officials to launch child abuse investigations into reports of transgender kids receiving gender-affirming care. This has caused widespread terror among trans kids, their families, and the people who care about them.

In Florida, the Republicans are rolling back and limiting the role of education to build an inclusive environment. The bill, Parental Rights in Education, also commonly referred to as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill, is an effort to limit discussions and learning about gender, sex, and race in classrooms.

The law will mean curriculum changes to forbid lessons on sexual orientation or gender identity before Grade 4, or in a manner that’s deemed “not age-appropriate.” Among other changes there will be a requirement that parents be notified if a student has recently received school services related to mental or physical well-being, such as for eating disorders, bullying, or gender identity.

**What we are witnessing is an alarming trend of conservatism and bigotry disguised as concern for children.**

These actions have a direct impact on our communities and schools. Of equal concern to educators and parents, the changes are a step backward given that we know children have an understanding of their own gender by the age of two.

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In Canada, anti-trans views are worryingly prevalent and there are signs that anti-trans ideology is worsening.

Educators are well positioned to develop support for and understanding of trans realities with their students, but there is a general lack of understanding about when and how these topics can be addressed.

The option for parents to exempt their children from the Human Development and Sexual Health portion of the Health and Physical Education Curriculum, has led to a cooling effect on 2SLGBTQ+ education in other subject areas.

This is despite a clear message from the Ontario Human Rights Commission urging, **“school boards and teachers to address LGBTQ2+ identities as much as possible when teaching the Human Development and Sexual Health curriculum – and to embed this learning in other parts of the curriculum, and in other school programs and activities.”**



It is essential that every educator do all that they can to support trans students, regardless of whether they are aware of any trans-identified students in their class. Creating a safer, inclusive space starts with you!

Please find more information and ETFO's 2SLGBTQ+ resource list [here](#).

## FIVE WAYS TO HELP TRANS KIDS FEEL SEEN IN SCHOOL

(even if there aren't any trans-identified students)

- Celebrate and validate a broad spectrum of gender expression.
- Use gender neutral language when addressing students (e.g., Grade Twos, folks, team, friends).
- Have regular check-ins with all students about pronouns, “What pronouns would you like used in class? On your report card?”
- Ensure there are gender neutral washrooms and changerooms in your school.
- Advocate for supportive policies for trans students in your board.



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