



# RAISE Network Meeting

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October 20, 2022



# Agenda

- **Policy Updates & Presentation**
  - LGBTQ+ Affirmation Makes ALL Children Safer Presentation
  - Policy Updates from Voices
- **RAISE Updates**
  - Date Reminders:
    - Network Meeting
    - Educational Experiences
    - Member Orientations
  - Upcoming Understanding ACEs Training
  - Volunteer Needs & Leadership Opportunities
- **Member Announcements**
  - What work is happening in Alexandria to reduce ACEs and promote health and healing?
- **Committee Work**
  - Member Engagement and Wellness Committee
  - Justice Advocacy & Training + Changing Environments Committee

# LGBTQ+ Affirmation Makes ALL Children Safer

Creating safer spaces for  
children *everywhere they are.*

**SCAN** of NOVA  
Stronger Families  
Safer Children



# Most Important Problems

LGBT youth identified	Non-LGBT youth identified
<b>1</b> <b>Non-accepting families (26%)</b>	<b>1</b> <b>Classes/exams/grades (25%)</b>
<b>2</b> <b>School/bullying problems (21%)</b>	<b>2</b> <b>College/career (14%)</b>
<b>3</b> <b>Fear of being out or open (18%)</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Financial pressures related to college or job (11%)</b>

# 2020 VA DOE Model Policy

## Prohibited discrimination and harm:

- Identity affirmation
- Access (facilities and full program participation)
- Dress codes
- Confidentiality and privacy
- Gender-based harassment

Numerous [studies](#) have found that when schools treat LGBTQ+ students with dignity, it fosters a feeling of safety and improves students' overall well-being.

# 2022 Revocation and Replacement:

Policy on Privacy, Dignity and Respect for All Students and Parents in VA Public Schools

## Paramountcy of parental rights

- School defers to parents in all matters
  - Defines transgender student as one whose parents have requested gender plan in writing
  - Parents informed of child's LGBTQ+ identity
- Restricts access to facilities and programs to sex assigned at birth or biological sex (including dress codes)
- Implementation avoids discrimination
- Religious freedom to refuse compliance

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GDocForum.cfm?GDocForumID=1953>

Your Views Needed!

Comment on 2022  
policy by Wednesday,  
October 26<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 pm

“Schools shall defer to parents to make the best decisions with respect to their children.”

# ALX LGBTQ+ Task Force Response

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- Affirms 2020 policy and support for LGBTQ+ students
- 2022 policy causes harm to highly vulnerable group
- Forced outing of students in unsupportive homes violates a duty of care to students
- Violates VA and Federal Laws
- Enables bullying and abuse by teachers choosing not to use child's name and pronouns
- Puts wishes of parents over rights and safety of children
- Affirms Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) support of LGBTQ+ students

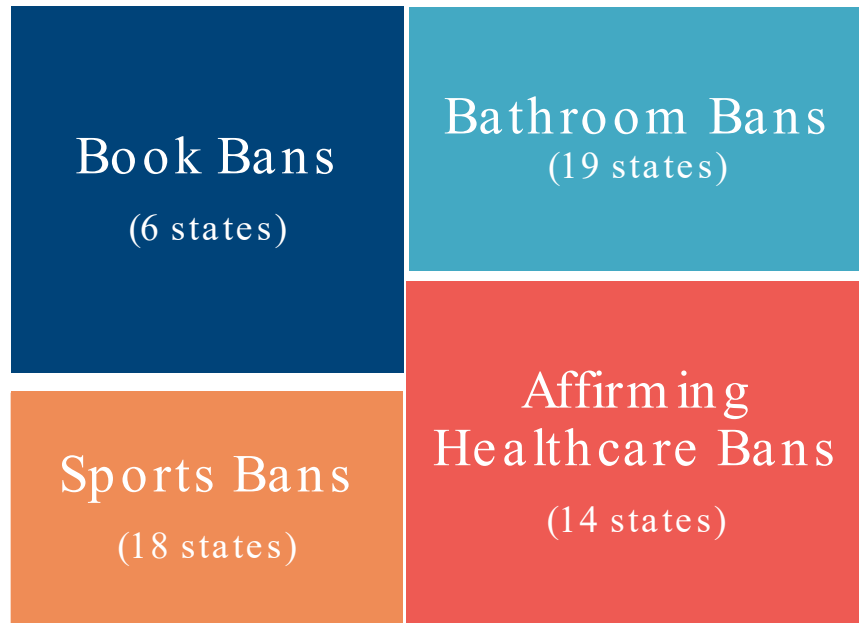




<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FaQVlflhWk>



# Attempted Legislation of Politicized Child Protection Issues



Results in



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Discrimination, hate crimes

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Worse outcomes for LGBTQ+ kids

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Institutional outing

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Care being equated with abuse

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Support being equated with grooming

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Healthcare being disrupted

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Promotion of harmful myths

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Harm to ALL children

Also under fire:

- **Sexuality and Relationship Education (SRE)**
- **Social-emotional Learning (SEL)**



# LGBTQ+ Taskforce promotes Protective Factors for Children

Resilience

Future orientation

Self-efficacy

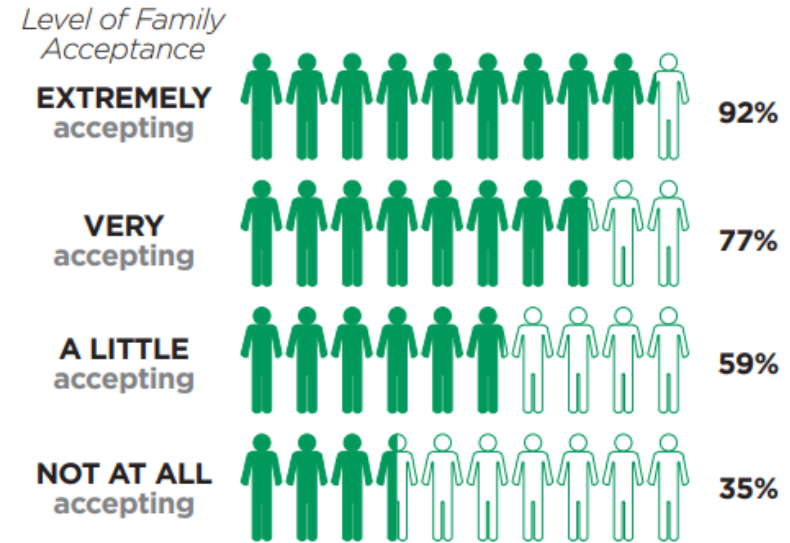
Network affiliation

A watercolor painting of a rainbow with a dark purple arch in the center, set against a light grey background. The rainbow consists of several concentric arches in shades of red, yellow, green, and blue. The central arch is a dark purple color. The painting is done on a light grey background.

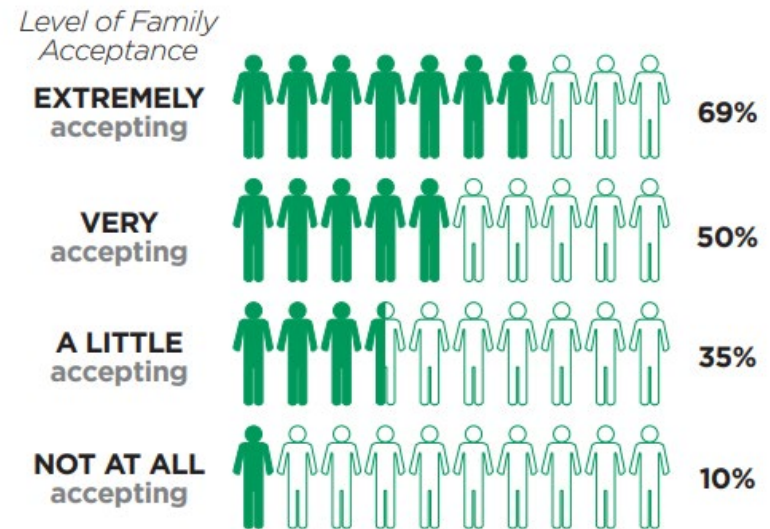
# **Family Acceptance & YSO Responsibility**

Wellbeing.  
Not just  
protection from  
harm.

## Youth Believe They Can Be A Happy LGBT Adult



## Youth Want to Become a Parent





What is your organization *showing*?

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# Resources to share

- GLSEN Research
- Trevor Project statements and research on Don't Say Gay legislation and research on LGBTQ+ youth suicide and Guide to Being an Ally to LGBTQ+ Youth
- Family Acceptance Project <https://familyproject.sfsu.edu/>
- Virginia Guidance for Transgender and Non-binary Students
- Gender Neutral Bathrooms: A new frame and some nudges
- Gender Neutral Bathrooms FAQs
- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/ie-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity/struggle-trans-and-gender-diverse-persons> - in multiple languages
- Trans families <https://transfamilies.org/>
- VA Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) classroom belonging guidance: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/b272dd38-0438-47eb-901c-86a690773b9a>
- Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Using a Racial Equity Lens to Review and Update Child Welfare Practices [Recorded Webinar](#)



# Policy Updates

Brought to you by Voices for Virginia's Children



# Policy Updates

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- Advocates and allies for trans youth are encouraged to submit public comment until 10/26 in response to Virginia Board of Education proposed model policies on the treatment of transgender and non-binary students.
  - Voices **opposes** the 2022 proposed model policy. We encourage engaging with Equality Virginia for more resources, talking points, and opportunities for advocacy: <https://equalityvirginia.org/how-to-protect-trans-kids-and-oppose-youngkins-2022-anti-transgender-student-policy/>
- Upcoming advocacy trainings!
  - As we prepare for the next VA General Assembly, Voices will be hosting advocacy trainings specifically for young people (25 and under) and general VA state-level legislative advocacy workshops open to all.
  - These will be posted on our [events page](#) once flyers and registration links are established.
- Stay tuned for upcoming Advocacy Days! Still in the planning stages.





Updates

# Proposed Calendar

October 20	November 17	December 15	January 19	February 16	March 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Network Meeting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educational Experience<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trauma-Informed Spaces Workshop</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Member Orientation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Network Meeting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educational Experience<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advocacy Workshop</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Member Orientation</li></ul>

*Understanding ACEs Trainings will continue to be delivered to the public every month*



*RAISE Committees can continue to meet every month*

April 20	May	June 15	July 20	August	September 21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Network Meeting 4/20/23</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educational Experience<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resilience Week VA</li><li>• Outdoor Film Screening</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Member Orientation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Network Meeting 7/20/2023</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educational Experience<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Racial Truth &amp; Reconciliation Week</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Member Orientation</li></ul>

## RAISE is switching to a rotating schedule!

Every quarter, RAISE will host:

- a network meeting
- a member orientation
- an educational experience for the public



# 2022-2023

## RAISE Calendar



### Network Meetings

10am - 12pm

- October 20, 2022
- January 19, 2023
- April 20, 2023
- July 20, 2023

[REGISTER](#)



### Educational Experiences\*

10am - 12pm

- November 17, 2022
- February 16, 2023
- May 7-13, 2023
- August 2023

[REGISTER](#)



### Member Orientations

10am - 11am

- December 15, 2022
- March 16, 2023
- June 15, 2023
- September 21, 2023

[REGISTER](#)

\*Educational Experiences will include free trainings, workshops, film screenings, Resilience Week VA, and Racial Truth & Reconciliation Week



### For more information

visit [alexandriava.gov/child-and-family-services/RAISE](http://alexandriava.gov/child-and-family-services/RAISE)  
or email [RAISE@AlexandriaVA.Gov](mailto:RAISE@AlexandriaVA.Gov)

# Registration Links

- **Network Meetings Registration:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451220600>
- **Educational Experiences Registration:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451220600>
- **Member Orientations Registration:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451220600>



# The Understanding ACEs, Building Self-Healing Communities Training is Back!

Wednesday October 26 at 5PM

Registration link:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYqc-6rrzspHdCRU2Uf1c5WTKg3wfmJavCt>

## Date and Times



Wednesday,  
October 26  
5-6:30 p.m.

REGISTER NOW!

### Questions?

Email your question to:  
[RAISE@alexandriava.gov](mailto:RAISE@alexandriava.gov)

Learn about ACEs and how you can support children and adults impacted by them.



This educational experience is helping Alexandria to develop a common language around ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), trauma, and resilience in our community, explain why ACEs have so much effect in people's lives, and shift our mindset around what we can all do to build a more resilient, healthy community.

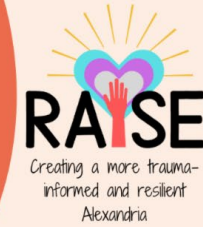


For reasonable disability accommodation, contact [maurice.tomdino@alexandriava.gov](mailto:maurice.tomdino@alexandriava.gov) or 571.384.5244, Virginia Relay 711.



# RAISE Volunteer & Leadership Opportunities

## Volunteers Needed



RAISE is seeking individuals, including youth, who can commit ~4-6 hours a month to fill one (or more) of the leadership roles listed below!

### Position Descriptions

- **RAISE Co-Coordinator**
  - Serve as an additional backbone to the Network by providing strategic leadership, supporting aligned activities, cultivating community engagement, advancing policies, mobilizing resources, and more.
- **Two Committee Co-Chairs**
  - Help plan and facilitate committee meetings and activities that are in alignment with Committee Action Plans. Contribute to member engagement, and more.
- **Communications Specialist**
  - Serve as a bridge to the greater community by maintaining and enhancing communication practices and platforms that engage community members, raise awareness, share information, and cultivate motivation.
- **Training & Events Coordinator**
  - Help plan and organize monthly trainings, educational experiences, film screenings, and special events
- **Grant Coordinator**
  - Help build RAISE's capacity to create a more trauma-informed and resilient community by coordinating efforts to obtain grants and funding.

### Interested?

Contact Chelsea Eickert at  
[chelsea.eickert@alexandriava.gov](mailto:chelsea.eickert@alexandriava.gov)



[alexandriava.gov/child-and-family-services/raise](http://alexandriava.gov/child-and-family-services/raise)



Updates or Announcements  
from RAISE members?



# Member Announcements

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- As part of their strategic planning efforts, Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV) is conducting a survey of key community stakeholders about the civil legal needs of low-income residents and about LSNV's response to those needs.
  - We would be grateful if RAISE members would respond to the survey
  - ~10 minutes to complete
  - There is a raffle for a gift card for those who complete it.
  - Survey link:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/qTFGU80aar>





# RAISE Committee Work