

THE DC CENTER



FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY

Date: April 5, 2016

To: DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education
DC State Board of Education

Re: Revised health education standards

From: Chris Obermeyer, M.Ed.
Eddy Ameen, PhD
Co-Chairs, Youth Working Group

On behalf of the DC Center for the LGBT Community's Youth Working Group, we are writing to offer our deepest thanks to you for making revisions in March to the proposed health education standards and releasing a [revised draft on April 1st](#). Creating space for a revised new draft following a public comment period was very important to us, and we applaud you for the efforts you underwent to attend to the substantive concerns raised by our group and many other community stakeholders in such a short period of time. We suggested many changes and most were partially or fully incorporated. This is a testament to your attentiveness and processes for continual improvement.

As the needs and health disparities of this population continue to emerge alongside best practices in education, we know that no set of standards could ever be perfect. Nonetheless, the April 1st standards reflect some of the most inclusive in the nation for LGBTQ youth.

We heartily commend OSSE (with special thanks to **Yair Inspektor**) and SBOE (with special thanks to **Jack Jacobson**) for focusing on education that reflects the experiences of all youth, including those facing significant health disparities. We strongly encourage SBOE to vote to approve these standards this week, and we also call upon other community stakeholders to share their endorsement.

We look forward to working with you to support the implementation of these standards.