



ATTENTION: Mr. Pedro Martinez, Superintendent, San Antonio Independent School District

This is in response to an article by Emily Donaldson with the San Antonio Report and a KSAT television report by Steven Cavazos on National Coming Out Day. Both sources stated that the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) asked school Principals not to “highlight” National Coming Out Day.

We strongly recommend that the SAISD include National Coming Out Day during the month of October.

National Coming Out Day was founded on October 11, 1988 to mark the anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Many of those marching came from Texas including members of our local LULAC Council, Orgullo de San Antonio. Since then, on or near every October 11, thousands of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer people and allies celebrate National Coming Out Day with workshops, speak-outs, rallies and other kinds of events all aimed at showing the public that LGBTQ people are everywhere.

One of the founders of National Coming Out Day has been quoted saying, “most people think they don’t know anyone gay or lesbian, and in fact everybody does. It is imperative that we come out and let people know who we are and disabuse them of their fears and stereotypes.”

And that is the point of National Coming Out Day - to let people see us, who we are, people they already like, know, and respect - who happen to be Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Queer. That is our strongest tool in the movement toward full human rights.

While SAISD may currently have a non-discriminatory policy that includes sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression events such as National Coming Out Day during the month of October should not be excluded from participation by teachers, principals and students. While Pride Month may be observed in the SAISD calendar most students, teachers and principals are not in school during the month of June. As such, observing National Coming Out Day would provide awareness for students, faculty and staff during the school year and affirm the district’s non-discrimination policy.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Maria R. Salazar
President, LGBTQ LULAC Council #22198
Orgullo de San Antonio

The purpose of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council #22198 known as “Orgullo de San Antonio” is to establish open and positive communication between the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) and Latino communities by promoting social and economic opportunity and full equality for ALL.