



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY CURRICULUM
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Bulletin #P14861-TL/EE/SE

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Action By: May 30, 2014

TO: All Principals

FROM: Cheryl C. Alligood, Chief Academic Officer 

SUBJECT: GENDER STUDIES CONTACTS

Per Florida Statute 1003.42 (q), all schools are required to include the study of women's contributions to the United States in K-12 curriculum. In addition, Florida Department of Education and the School District of Palm Beach County have adopted language that will assist in creating a safe environment for *Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT)* youths.

To support schools, teachers and students with these important issues, we are requesting that each school select a Gender Studies contact person. The contact will be trained in Women's Studies, and in providing support to female students and students who identify as LGBT. The Gender Studies contact will receive professional development training through the African, African American, Latino, and Gender Studies office. The responsibilities of the contact will include:

- Ensuring the inclusion of Women's Studies in history activities throughout the school, including Women's History Month.
- Providing Women's Studies curriculum support to teachers.
- Engaging girls in science, technology, engineering, and math activities.
- Leading the establishment of a safe environment at school for LGBT students, to convey the message that, according to Florida Department of Education, "no one should be treated differently because they are or are perceived to be LGBT."
- Creating age/grade appropriate support groups for LGBT students. The Florida Department of Education states that the Gay, Straight Alliance (GSA) groups help to create safer schools. Schools must allow these groups if they have other "non-curricular clubs or groups."

Please submit the name of the designated Gender Studies contact for your school via email to tonisha.cook@palmbeachschools.org, by Friday, May 30th, 2014. Trainings for contacts will begin during the pre-school session in August 2014.

EWG/CCA/KO/DF/MLB:sm

Approved by: 
E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent