



## Lower Merion School District

301 East Montgomery Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003-3399

Phone: 610-645-1800 ♦ [www.lmsd.org](http://www.lmsd.org)

TO: Pa. House Committee on Education  
FR: Lower Merion School District  
RE: Transgender and Gender Diverse Inclusivity  
DATE: August 2, 2021

Lower Merion School District (LMSD) is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students and employees. We are dedicated to ensuring that every student has equal access to the District's educational programs and activities, regardless of disability, gender identity, national origin, race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or socioeconomic level. We firmly believe that establishing a deep sense of belonging is fundamental to our work as educators and to the development, health and wellbeing of our students. To that end, the Lower Merion Board of School Directors and Administrators support the full inclusion of transgender and gender diverse students in all educational and extra-curricular activities, including athletics.

LMSD was at the forefront of districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania advocating for this inclusion, when the District enacted [Policy 259 Transgender and Gender Diverse Students – Ensuring Equity and Non-Discrimination](#) in May 2016. The Policy's goal is to reduce stigmatization and to maximize transgender and gender diverse (TGD) students' social integration in District programs, services, and activities.

The Lower Merion Board of School Directors and Administrators urge the Pennsylvania House Education Committee to vote against any efforts to ban TGD students from participating in sports or other school activities. TGD students need our support, not marginalization and exclusion.

Sincerely,

Lucy Klain  
President, Lower Merion Board of School Directors

Robert L. Copeland  
Superintendent, Lower Merion School District