

Affirming Our Support for Every Student

The Saratoga Springs City School District (SSCSD) Board of Education reaffirms its unwavering commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and high-quality education for every student. Recent federal executive orders and communications targeting transgender students, immigrant youth, and important educational policies are antithetical to the principles of access and inclusion that define our schools and our community.

New York State's Constitution guarantees a system of public schools "wherein all the children of this state may be educated." This commitment was strengthened by landmark federal legislation such as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as well as New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), and our constitutional Equal Rights Amendment. We stand firmly against any actions that undermine this tradition or threaten the dignity and rights of our students.

To that end, we affirm the following commitments:

Dignity in Education:

- Our board has established and will continue to support policies that uphold the inherent dignity of every student. We reject intolerant rhetoric or actions that undermine each and every student's right to a free and fair education.

Commitment to Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity:

- We reaffirm our support for SSCSD's Policy and Regulation 0105.
- We will continue to support our educators as they provide age-appropriate, accurate, and equitable education in our schools.
- We will uphold New York State laws safeguarding vulnerable populations and will not comply with directives that violate civil rights protections.

Support for Immigrant Students

- We affirm that every student has a right to an education, regardless of immigration status, as determined by Supreme Court ruling Plyler v. Doe (1982).
- We stand by our Superintendent's commitment to follow New York State guidance on these matters to ensure the safety and privacy of our students at school. For example, law enforcement officers may not question students on school property except under very specific conditions.

Support for Transgender and Gender-Expansive Students

- Our schools will continue to be environments where transgender and gender-expansive students can safely express their authentic selves without fear of discrimination or harassment.
- We affirm the 2018 DASA amendment and will respect students' chosen names and pronouns. We will ensure their right to use facilities and participate in activities and sports consistent with their gender identity.

Call to Action:

- The board calls on families, educators, staff, students, and all members of our community to join us in affirming these commitments to provide a safe, inclusive, and high-quality education for every student. Together, we can ensure that each child in our district feels valued, respected, and empowered to succeed.

Finally, be it resolved that this resolution be included in the official minutes of the Saratoga Springs City School District Board of Education Meeting, March 27, 2025, and that a copy be presented to Dr. Michael Patton and all district employees.

Supporting Documents

New York State Guidance on Safeguarding the Rights of Immigrant Students January 2025
<https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/oag-go-sed-immigration-students.pdf>

Statement of the New York State Education Department on Recent Executive Orders Concerning Public Education February 3, 2025
<https://www.nysed.gov/news/2025/statement-new-york-state-education-department-recent-executive-orders-concerning-public>

Joint Statement of the Office of the Attorney General and the State Education Department Regarding Transgender Students' Rights February 2025
<https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/nysed-oag-joint-statement-regarding-transgender-students.pdf>

NYSSBA 2024 Summer Law Conference Transgender and Gender Expansive Student Rights – An Ongoing Evolution https://www.nyssba.org/clientuploads/nyssba_pdf/Events/summer-law-2024/albany/03.pdf

Joint Guidance re School Programs - Guidance - March 2025
<https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/publications/joint-guidance-re-school-programs-guidance-2025.pdf>