



*The School Board of Broward County, Florida*

# RESOLUTION

No. 10-69

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF  
NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE APRIL 16, 2010**

**WHEREAS**, in April 1996, the National Day of Silence was created at the University of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, hundreds of thousands of students from more than 8,000 K-12 schools, colleges and universities organized Day of Silence events. These numbers make the Day of Silence one of the largest student-led actions in the United States. The event has drawn significant attention to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) issues in schools over the years; and

**WHEREAS**, the national focus of the Day of Silence is to help end LGBT bullying and prevent harassment of students, particularly physical violence and verbal threats; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's (GLSEN) 2007 National School Climate Survey, 9 out of 10 LGBT students report verbal, sexual or physical harassment at school and more than 30% report missing at least a day of school in the past month out of fear for their personal safety; and

**WHEREAS**, it was also determined that a greater number of educators supportive of LGBT students was also associated with higher educational aspirations; and LGBT students in schools with Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) were more likely to feel safe in school than students whose schools do not have a GSA; and

**WHEREAS**, The School Board of Broward County, Florida supports the development and expansion of Gay-Straight Alliance Clubs in schools throughout Broward County to nurture and value all identities; and

**WHEREAS**, The School Board of Broward County, Florida, has taken appropriate measures to curtail LGBT bullying and harassment in general through the Anti-Bullying Policy of The School Board of Broward County, Florida, adopted July 22, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the Day of Silence is most effective when schools and students work together to show their commitment to ensure safer schools for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no single way to participate, and students are encouraged to take part in the way that is the most positive and uplifting for their school; and

**WHEREAS**, The School Board of Broward County, Florida appreciates and recognizes the importance of the National Day of Silence as an effective tool in the fight for equal protection of all Broward County students; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, hereby declares its support of:

**APRIL 16, 2010**

**National Day of Silence**

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida this 2nd day of March, 2010.

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY:

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Jennifer Gottlieb, Chair

ATTEST:

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James F. Notter, Superintendent of Schools