



## Indiana Department of Education 2019 Legislative Priority

### **Expect an inclusive K-12 environment**

State leaders and school administrators have a responsibility to foster an inclusive school community and learning environment that demonstrates respect for people of all races, color, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, or ancestry. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will advocate for an inclusive, respectful K-12 environment for all Hoosier students and school employees, no matter the school setting. To this end, IDOE will support bills that enact non-discriminatory policies applied to all Choice Scholarship schools.

#### Quick Facts

- ❑ Indiana is in the top five states for national suicide rates for young people ages 15-24.
- ❑ LGBTQ youth seriously contemplate suicide at almost three times the rate of heterosexual youth.
- ❑ LGBTQ youth are almost five times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to heterosexual youth.
- ❑ In Indiana, some educational institutions have received amounts close to \$6.5 million in public dollars over the last five years through Indiana's Choice voucher program.
- ❑ For the 2017-2018 school year, the highest percentage (59%) of Indiana Choice Scholarship recipients were of the white ethnicity. Of all recipients, 64% are attending metropolitan area Choice Scholarship schools.
- ❑ For the 2017-2018 school year, 12.9% of Indiana Choice Scholarship recipients were English Learners.