



August 24, 2021 – Official statement from G. David Caudill, Executive Director of Equality Indiana regarding the Bluffton Harrison School District review of school policies regarding the display of a rainbow flag in a classroom.

“Thank you for having a public discussion and allowing citizens to state their opinion regarding any policy change that may impact the display of a rainbow flag in a school classroom.”

“My name is G David Caudill, I am the Founding and Executive Director of Equality Indiana, a new, nonpartisan, LGBTQ, nonprofit, advocacy organization that stands for making Indiana, and all its communities, a more welcoming place for all LGBTQ Americans, especially for young people.”

“Our supporters and activists, from throughout Indiana, are all agreed, and our message is the same: a rainbow flag, known as a pride flag, is a non-political symbol of the LGBTQ community and their allies. Its message promotes one of a welcoming, non-threatening, loving safe space for everyone in whatever location it is displayed, whether it be at a home, business, or in a classroom.”

“The rainbow flag has never stood for a message that would threaten, bully, or coerce anyone not understanding its meaning. It only stands for the acceptance of diverse people, ideas, and questions about one’s most personal thoughts and identity. Those who wave this colorful symbol can be trusted to accept everyone and each question, then hopefully help provide guidance, so a truthful answer can be discovered.”

“Where else but in an institution of learning, i.e., a school, would it be wholly appropriate for a rainbow flag to be displayed since it represents safety and acceptance; a symbol for young people to know they can trust someone to help them find answers about their most personal questions, especially if they can’t find that safe and accepting space at home with their families. Adults are also welcomed to ask questions and find their answers too. That is what a community school is all about.”

“Thank you for your time. I hope my words have been helpful in finding your own answers to these questions.”

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