



Austin Independent School District

4000 S. IH 35 Frontage Road

Austin, TX 78704

Dear Superintendent Matias Segura and Austin ISD Board of Trustees,

It has come to our attention that Austin ISD is preparing to have a Pride week on March 23-27. We are warning you that hosting a Pride Week is in violation of a few state laws, including The Parental Bill of Rights, SB 12 that passed in the recent 2025 Texas Legislature. We are also aware that a member of the State Board of Education, Brandon Hall, has also written a letter to you requesting that you cancel hosting your Pride week. We believe that due to the current law, the letter from state officials, and possible pushback from parents are reasons to cancel this year's Pride week in Austin ISD.

1. The mere fact that you are having a Pride week is in violation of Senate Bill 12

While your school district is correct in choosing not to have curriculum for Pride week due to concerns about the law, Senate Bill 12 is not limited to only addressing instruction and curriculum regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. Senate Bill 12 also prohibits “activities” and “programs” that reference gender identity and sexual orientation. (11.005(3)). Pride is a well-known symbol of the LGBT movement that celebrates and advocates for sexual orientation and gender identity. Regardless of the vagueness of what will be discussed during the week, every student and faculty member knows the week is to

commemorate the concepts of sexual orientation and gender identity. Thus, having a Pride week is in violation of SB 12.

2. The beYOUtiful “wear what you want” day will lead kids to dress according to their gender identity

Your agenda for the Pride week includes a day where students “wear something that represents your “beYOUtifully” unique identity/personality. While this is open for students to wear anything, because the week is “Pride” week we expect that students who identify as the “sex” opposite their birth sex may dress or identify as such. Students may even choose to dress in a way that is ambiguous. We are aware that in the past Austin ISD has had policies that allowed for students to dress according to their gender identity. This would be in violation of SB 12 as being an “activity” that regards gender identity.

Additionally, it could possibly be in violation of House Bill 229, the Women’s Bill of Rights which says that the state of Texas only recognizes two sexes “male” and “female”.

3. Pride flags and themed attire violate SB 12

We believe that displaying Pride flags and also wearing LGBT themed clothing at the request of the school is considered an “activity” and is regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

4. Austin ISD appears to be hiding what they are doing

The directions that your school has provided for schools are written as if the school district lacks confidence in the legality of the activities during Pride week. In your “visual guidelines for any images intended for social media or public websites” you ask photographers to capture action from behind or from the side. You also call for anyone taking

pictures to “maintain campus anonymity” to not include images that identify a specific school, school signage, mascot logos, specific room numbers, or distinctive campus architecture.

It appears that you are trying to make it difficult for a parent or student to report that these activities that might be happening in violation of the law.

5. In the past, Austin ISD has had Drag Queen performers on campus during Pride Week, this violates state law that has been recently upheld by 5th Circuit Court of Appeals

In the past, Austin ISD has had drag queens perform for students during Pride week. Having drag queens perform in front of students, even if outside of school hours, is in violation of Drag Queen Show Ban (SB 12, 2023) that the [courts](#) have now allowed to take effect.

Conclusion

We advise that Austin ISD cancel Pride week that is scheduled to happen March 23 - March 27. There are a number of violations against state law that will occur if Austin ISD continues with the activities of Pride week and the district is at risk of having further legal action taken against them. We have already advised and assisted one school district in removing displays of LGBT materials in the classroom and we stand ready to assist Austin ISD as well. It is best that Austin ISD follow the lead of other school districts in Texas and postpone Pride week indefinitely.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Saenz

President and Attorney of Texas Values

Jonathan Covey

Director of Policy for Texas Values

Mary Elizabeth Castle, J.D.

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