

RESOLUTION NO. RS2019-1566

A resolution proclaiming January 21-25, 2019 as "No Name-Calling Week" in Nashville and Davidson County schools.

WHEREAS, name-calling, bullying, and harassment continue to be prevalent in our schools; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) study of public, private, and parochial school students in grades 6-10 found that almost a third of 6th to 10th graders – 5.7 million children nationwide – have experienced some form of bullying; and

WHEREAS, targets of bullying and name-calling often experience a negative impact on their academic achievement, educational aspirations, and psychological well-being; and

WHEREAS, students in schools with hostile environments suffer from high rates of absenteeism because of feeling unsafe or uncomfortable; and

WHEREAS, "No Name-Calling Week" aligns with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) indicators, which prioritize inclusive school climate recognizing that students learn best when they are in safe, inclusive, and affirming environments; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Nashville Public Schools Fall 2017 School Climate Survey found that many students still do not feel safe in their school's bathrooms, hallways, and classrooms; and

WHEREAS, name-calling has no place in our schools, as it impedes the learning process for all; and

WHEREAS, GLSEN's "No Name-Calling Week," scheduled for January 21-25, 2019, is an invaluable project that is supported by a broad-based coalition of education and youth services organizations concerned about the detrimental effects name-calling has on students; and

WHEREAS, in order for policy to reach its full potential, all adults in the school district should receive training on how to respond to harassment in a supportive way while encouraging educators to be visible allies; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council encourages districts to increase student access to appropriate and accurate information regarding LGBTQI people, history, and events through inclusive curricula and library and internet resources; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognize and proclaim January 21-25, 2019 to be "No Name-Calling Week" in Metro Nashville schools; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council encourages Metro teachers, students, parents and school officials to appropriately observe the week through activities, lessons, and programs designed to reduce name-calling and bullying on the basis of real or perceived body size, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, race, religion, sexual orientation, social or academic standing, or any other attribute for which students are singled out for such unacceptable behavior.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as proclaiming January 21-25, 2019 as "No Name-Calling Week" in Nashville and Davidson County schools and encourage a week of kindness in action where students and educators work to end name-calling and bullying in schools.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

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