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BACK TO SCHOOL



Trump administration tells states to remove references to 'gender ideology' from sex ed materials

By Geoff Mulvihill
Associated Press

In August, President Donald Trump's administration told 40 states to eliminate parts of lessons that focus on LGBTQ+ issues from federally funded sexual education materials or that they

will lose funding.

The move is the latest in a line of efforts since Trump returned to the White House in January to recognize people as only male or female and to eliminate what he calls "gender ideology."

"Federal funds will not be used to

poison the minds of the next generation or advance dangerous ideological agendas," Acting Assistant Health and Human Service Secretary Andrew Gradi-son said in a statement.

That position contradicts what the

see **GENDER IDEOLOGY**, page 7

Finding Support: A Guide to LGBTQ+ Student Resources In New England and Beyond

Compiled by Bay Windows Staff

For LGBTQ+ students navigating high school and college, having access to supportive resources can make the difference between struggling in isolation and thriving in community. Whether you're dealing with family rejection, campus discrimination, or

simply need someone who understands your experience, help is available both locally in New England and through national organizations.

Crisis Support When You Need It Most

The Trevor Project remains the gold standard for LGBTQ+ youth

crisis support, offering 24/7 confidential help through multiple channels. You can reach their trained counselors by calling 1-866-488-7386, texting START to 678-678, or chatting online at [TheTrevorProject.org/Get-Help](https://www.thetrevorproject.org/Get-Help). All services are completely free

see **STUDENT RESOURCES**, page 2

State Audit: MA Education Department Failed to Protect LGBTQ+ Students

By Bay Windows Staff

A comprehensive audit by State Auditor Diana DiZogio has revealed that Massachusetts' Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) systematically violated agreements designed to protect LGBTQ+ students, putting vulnerable youth at increased risk in schools statewide.

The audit, examining the period from July 2021 through July 2023, found that DESE breached its agreement with the

Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ+ Youth by failing to fulfill critical communication requirements with school districts.

Most significantly, the audit reports that the department failed to issue a mandated annual communication with school leaders specifically aimed at creating safe and supportive environments for LGBTQ+ students. This communication was designed to ensure districts understood their obligations to protect LGBTQ+ youth from discrimination

and harassment.

According to the audit findings, these failures have "[reduced] the effectiveness of efforts to create safe and supportive school environments and increase the risk that LGBTQ+ students do not receive adequate protections and support."

The report also revealed broader systemic problems with DESE's oversight of educator misconduct. The audit

see **AUDIT**, page 7



An Answer for Snoop Dogg

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

Rapper Snoop Dogg has drawn widespread criticism for his recent response to a grandson's questions about same-sex parents in a movie. His phrasing was insulting, but he also seemed simply frustrated that he didn't have an answer. I'm here to help, Snoop.

Snoop's comments came during an interview August 20 on the "It's Giving" podcast, when he spoke about watching the Disney film "Lightyear" with one of his grandsons. The protagonist's boss and best friend is a woman astronaut who is later shown to have a wife and kids.

During the film, Snoop related, his grandson asked him, "How she have a baby with a woman? She's a woman!" The boy kept questioning while the movie played, and Snoop tried to hush him. Snoop complained to the podcast, "I didn't come in for this shit. I just came to watch the goddamn movie.... I'm scared to go to the movies now.

Y'all throwing me in the middle of shit that I don't have an answer for."

He continued. "These are kids. That we have to show that at this age... like, they're going to ask questions. I don't have the answer."

Podcast host Sarah Fontenot also said she wouldn't know what to say in that situation, and when she (or her team) posted a clip of the segment to YouTube, it was provocatively titled, "Disney exposing kids too soon?"

Let me be very clear: Saying that there's some age when kids are too young to know about same-sex parents is the same as saying that kids shouldn't be raised by same-sex parents.

Furthermore, this isn't just about helping kids understand what they may see on screen, but about equipping them for life in the world today. There are 5 million children under 18 being raised by 2.6 million LG-

see **MOMBIAN**, page 3

Court Denies Amherst School District's Bid to Block Counselor's Reinstatement

By Bay Windows Staff

A Hampshire Superior Court judge on August 22 denied an emergency motion by Amherst-Pelham Regional Public Schools to prevent the reinstatement of guidance counselor Delinda Dykes, who was fired in December 2023 for allegedly discriminating against LGBTQ+ stu-

dents.

Dykes won her job back through arbitration in July, with the arbitrator finding the district failed to prove she had repeatedly misgendered students or made inappropriate comments about gender or sexual orientation, according to New England

see **AMHERST**, page 3



"I know just how you feel because I have had these deep, loving relationships with men in my life, and all my wives were jealous."

- Vincent Price's response when his daughter, Victoria Price, came out to him as a lesbian. And suddenly, all the pieces fall into place.

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

Public domain photo, via Wikimedia Commons.

Student Resources

Continued from page 1

and designed specifically for LGBTQ+ young people under 25.

Recent political changes have eliminated the specialized LGBTQ+ youth services from the 988 Suicide Crisis Lifeline as of July 2025, but the general crisis support remains available by calling or texting 988. For transgender individuals specifically, Trans Lifeline at 1-877-565-8860 provides crisis support staffed by transgender people who understand the unique challenges of the trans experience. They operate Monday-Friday, 10 AM to 6 PM Pacific time.

New England's Local Support Networks

Massachusetts leads New England in LGBTQ+ youth support infrastructure. The state's AGLY Network serves over 6,000 LGBTQ+ youth annually through local chapters including BAGLY in Boston, NAGLY on the North Shore, OUT MetroWest, and groups in Brockton, Holyoke, Merrimack Valley, Greenfield, Pittsfield, South Coast, Springfield, and Worcester. Boston GLASS Community Center operates as a drop-in center for young people ages 13-25, offering everything from meals and computer access to support groups covering coming out, gender identity, and more.

Greater Boston PFLAG provides crucial family support at 781-891-5966, with a helpline at 866-427-3524. For those experiencing domestic violence, The Network/La Red offers a free 24-hour hotline at 617-742-4911 specifically for LGBTQ+ folks in abusive situations.

Beyond Massachusetts, support exists throughout New England. LGBTQ+ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) serves the entire region, offering free legal name and gender marker change resources for transgender people across Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Vermont's Diversity Health Project maintains a searchable database of LGBTQ+-affirming healthcare providers, while Maine's Mainetrans.net offers peer support groups and advocacy specifically for transgender individuals.

Additional National Resources

The LGBT National Help Center operates multiple specialized hotlines: the main LGBT

National Hotline at 888-843-4564, the Youth Talkline at 800-246-7743, and weekly online chat rooms for youth under 19. Crisis Text Line provides 24/7 support by texting HOME to 741741, while Q Chat Space offers a moderated online community for LGBTQ+ teens.

Navigating College as an LGBTQ+ Student

College represents both opportunity and challenge for LGBTQ+ students. Campus Pride's Index serves as the premier tool for finding LGBTQ+-friendly colleges and universities, offering a searchable database of schools that have demonstrated commitment to inclusive policies and programs. Their Trans Policy Clearinghouse specifically tracks colleges with gender-neutral housing, trans-inclusive nondiscrimination policies, and other transgender-supportive services.

Research consistently shows that schools with Gender-Sexuality Alliances (GSAs) report less bullying, less homophobic language, and greater sense of belonging for LGBTQ+ students. When evaluating colleges, look for active LGBTQ+ student organizations, dedicated resource centers, Safe Zone trained staff, and comprehensive nondiscrimination policies.

Some progressive institutions even offer emergency funding for LGBTQ+ students who lose family financial support after coming out, recognizing the unique financial vulnerability many young people face when their families reject them.

School-Based Advocacy and Rights

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) works nationwide to ensure LGBTQ+ students can learn in environments free from bullying and harassment, offering resources for both students and educators. The ACLU's LGBTQ+ Youth and Schools Resource Library provides comprehensive information about student rights, including guidance on forming GSAs, addressing harassment, and understanding legal protections.

Understanding that knowledge equals power, these organizations emphasize that public schools are legally required to allow students to form GSAs and must treat them equally with other student clubs. For educators wanting to create more supportive environments, resources exist through organizations like the National Education Association and local affiliates.

Financial Support for Education

The financial challenges facing LGBTQ+ stu-

dents are well-documented, with over 64 percent expecting to pay for college out of pocket according to recent studies. Fortunately, numerous scholarships target LGBTQ+ students specifically. Organizations like Bold.org, Scholarships360, and various foundations offer awards ranging from small grants to substantial multi-year scholarships. These scholarships help level the playing field for students who often face family rejection and earn about 10 percent less than their peers after graduation.

Family and Community Support

PFLAG chapters across the country provide invaluable support for both LGBTQ+ individuals and their families, with hundreds of local chapters offering virtual and in-person support groups. The organization recognizes that family acceptance dramatically improves outcomes for LGBTQ+ young people, while family rejection significantly increases risks.

For students whose families struggle with acceptance, connecting parents to PFLAG removes the burden of education from young people themselves, allowing trained volunteers and other parents to provide perspective and support.

Moving Forward with Support

Research consistently demonstrates that supportive school environments can mean the difference between life and death for LGBTQ+ students, with affirming schools correlating with lower rates of suicide attempts and better mental health outcomes overall. Whether through crisis hotlines, local youth groups, college resource centers, or family support organizations, the network of support for LGBTQ+ students continues to grow despite political challenges.

The key is knowing these resources exist and feeling empowered to use them. No LGBTQ+ student should navigate their journey alone when so many people and organizations stand ready to provide support, advocacy, and community.

For immediate crisis support, remember that The Trevor Project's counselors are available 24/7 at 1-866-488-7386. For longer-term support, explore local AGLY chapters, campus pride centers, PFLAG groups, and the many other organizations working to ensure every LGBTQ+ young person can not just survive, but thrive.

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Mombian

Continued from page 1

BTQ+ parents in the United States, in every region of the country, per UCLA's Williams Institute. Millions of adults have been raised by them. Teaching children about LGBTQ+ families and family diversity more broadly is something every parent and guardian should do.

I'm sympathetic to Snoop's feeling of annoyance, though, when a kid asks a question about something that we adults don't have experience with or an answer for. I therefore want to educate, not just castigate. My advice to Snoop is to tell his grandson essentially what I told my own son. "Sometimes a woman falls in love with another woman or a man with another man, just like a man and a woman can fall in love," I would say. "And there are different ways they can have kids together."

That might be enough to satisfy a child's first inquiry. If they wanted to know more, I'd elaborate with something like, "It takes three things to make a baby: a sperm, an egg, and a womb. Sometimes a couple has all of those things, but sometimes, a couple or single person needs to find a special person called a donor, who gives them an egg or sperm, or someone called a surrogate, who offers to carry the baby for them in their womb. They can also adopt a child who needs a home."

Additional conversations can add nuance and details—this shouldn't be a one-shot infodump, but rather the start of a series of discussions as a child grows.

There are also a number of picture books that can help adults and children have these conversations. I'd start with ones about the many types of family structures, such as "Families," by Shelley Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly (Holiday House), "Love Makes a Family," by Sophie Beer (Dial), and "Love Without Bounds: An IntersectionAllies Book about

Families," by Carolyn Choi, Chelsea Johnson, and LaToya Council, illustrated by Ashley Seil Smith (Dottir Press).

For explaining biological creation in ways inclusive of all identities, I particularly like "What Makes a Baby," by Cory Silverberg, illustrated by Fiona Smyth (Triangle Square), and "You Began as a Wish," by Kim Bergman, illustrated by Irit Pollak. (Visit my Database of LGBTQ+ Family Books at mombian.com for even more titles that cover all kinds of family creation.)

Parenting and grandparenting are hard. Sometimes we need to talk about things we're not prepared to, or that make us uncomfortable. We owe it to the children to educate ourselves, however, and to have those conversations.

Snoop himself seems to have apologized and expressed a willingness to learn. When transgender actor and television personality Ts Madison chastised him on Hollywood Unlocked for his initial remarks, Snoop left a comment on the show's Instagram account, saying that he was "just caught off guard" and that "all my gay friends no [sic] what's up they been calling me with love ... my bad for not knowing the answers for a 6 yr old ... teach me how to learn I'm not perfect." (Deadline later reported that although the comment came from the rapper's verified account, "a source close to Snoop Dogg" said it was fake; I have no further information either way, although I have confirmed that the comment is still there as of this writing, despite Deadline saying that it had been deleted.)

Regardless of that comment, however, I'll quote Snoop's words from a 2019 interview with Fader magazine several years ago: "You can teach an old dog new tricks if that old dog listen." Snoop, I hope you're listening.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog for LGBTQ+ parents plus a searchable database of 1,800+ LGBTQ+ family books.

Amherst

Continued from page 1

Public Media.

In denying the district's motion, Justice James Manitsas wrote that "mere restating of bare allegations previously alleged by the school district and found not to have been

proven by the arbitrator falls woefully short of establishing" that the arbitrator exceeded her powers, New England Public Media reported.

Dykes remains on paid administrative leave while the district appeals the arbitration decision. The case stems from a 2023 investigation into allegations that middle school counselors failed to protect LGBTQ+ students from harassment.



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billy masters

Last week, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of this weekly column. That works out to over 1,500 columns—each of which had about 1,500 words. Oh, the symmetry is almost poetic. I, for one, can't believe I've done the same thing, day in, day out, for 30 years. One minute you're celebrated as the voice of several generations, and the next minute, you celebrate something a bit closer to home—the life of **Big Daddy Masters**. Yes, at the age of 92, my father passed away after a relatively short illness. I know popular convention says I should feel sad about this, but all in all, I'm mostly filled with gratitude. I had a parent who was inexplicably always proud of me—and trust me, that was no small feat. He didn't always say it, but I always knew. With the passage of time and knowing many people who had contentious relationships with their parents, I'm acutely aware of how lucky I was. Rest in peace.

This got me thinking about my legacy. Obviously there will be many universities that will teach "The Art of Billy Masters". Young writers will attempt to emulate my indefinable je ne sais quoi (I've got a whole lotta quoi to pass on). I'll probably take on several fledglings, nubile youths as prot g's. Unlike my many now-defunct colleagues, a strong part of my legacy is my ability to be a fair and unbiased arbiter of news—unless it's about someone I either slept with or don't like (often one and the same). So since we've already told you the side of the hooker/porn star that **David Geffen** married, I feel strongly that we must give the mogul a chance to have his say.

To remind you, the twosome married in 2023 with no prenup and no children (that we know of). **Donovan Michael** (aka **Brandon Foster**, aka **David Armstrong**) is requesting spousal support and has filed a lawsuit against Geffen claiming breach of contract. Answering these charges, Geffen calls the claim "a work of fiction". "Plaintiff cannot embarrass Geffen and extort a settlement with petty gossip and salacious lies." The retort states that "Geffen loved Plaintiff and treated him with nothing but kindness, respect, and generosity throughout their relationship." Geffen freely admits that their initial "encounter" was transactional—\$10K for the full night (how presidential of him). He also claims that Michael used assistants to charge hundreds of thousands of dollars to Geffen's accounts—although, to be fair, if you're married to David Geffen, you expect that's not a big deal. Geffen adds that in the final months of the marriage, Donovan spent a pretty penny on OnlyFans and paying for male escorts. Again, I kinda expect that in a Geffen marriage, but you probably have to run it by him first (might I suggest a "play together" clause?).

Before leaping into this next story, I feel compelled to again point out that **Kevin Spacey** has never been convicted of any crime. Spacey continues his bid for a return to Hollywood by attending the Venice Film Festival—my favorite of the European festivals (with the exception of the Danish Clogging Festival). Since no notable acting roles have dropped into Kevin's lap (so to speak), he's directing. "Holiguards Saga-The Portal Of Force" is termed as a "sci-fi thriller" and Kevin co-stars with **Dolph Lundgren** and **Eric Roberts**. Even more ridiculous, his producers are throwing a "gala" to accompany a screening of the trailer. Yes, the trailer—not even the film! They say the event will include "live performances by an opera singer and a Georgian dance ensemble". You throw some clogs on them Georgians and I'm there!

Mike Sorrentino (better known to my fans as **The Situation**) wrote a memoir. That's not even the news, although it's news to me. His memoir is being adapted into a documentary—perhaps a multi-part documentary. I suppose it could be worse—it could become a musical!

In a recent interview, sexy **Austin Butler** was asked if he would bring **Paul Mescal**, **Barry Keoghan** or **Saoirse Ronan** to a pub. Austin said, "Barry would be a great time, but I wouldn't subject him to that." He added he previously partied with Mescal. "We once went to a bar and they shut it down and then they played show tunes. And Paul and I danced and had a great time." One might even call it a gay ol' time. Not necessarily me, but one.

A reunion of the cast of "Dawson's Creek" is taking place as a charity benefit on Broadway on September 22nd. The evening will benefit F Cancer—the brainchild of **James Van Der Beek**, who has been diagnosed with Stage 3 colorectal cancer. Joining the Beek will be my bon ami **John Wesley Shipp** alongside **Michelle Williams**, **Joshua Jackson**, **Katie Holmes**, **Mary-Margaret Humes**, **Mary Beth Peil**, **Kerr Smith**, **Busy Philipps** and more. The plan is to do a live reading of the pilot to the series. But would people come? Uh, yes, they would. Tickets for the one-night-only event sold out in 12 minutes!

Elsewhere on Broadway, the producers of "Maybe Happy Ending" have made the startling announcement that **Darren Criss** hasn't actually left the show—despite the statements and press releases to the contrary. He's simply taking an "extended vacation". He plans to return on November 5th. I do hope that all of the crap **Andrew Barth Feldman** received for not being of Korean descent continues towards Criss, who likewise has not a drop of Korean blood in his DNA. I hesitate from saying he has no Korean in him—because, you know, a gig's a gig!

If the politically correct folks out there want to find someone to hate, look no further than **Dame Helen Mirren**. The esteemed actress was asked how she felt about there one day being a female James Bond. "I wish them well. I'm excited for the next man to come on the stage. I'm such a feminist, but you can't have a woman playing James Bond. It just doesn't work. James Bond has to be James Bond, otherwise it becomes something else".

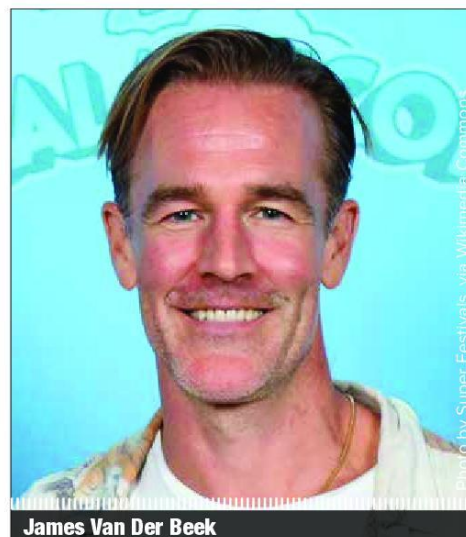
A scurrilous rumor was circulating that Becks Motor Lodge in San Francisco was poised to sell. Not true. The landmark establishment in the middle of the Castro neighborhood opened its doors in 1958 and ever since has serviced our community (to say nothing of truckers, who frequented the parking lot). It's still a family business. When contacted, they said, "Thanks for checking with us. We are alive and well!"

I hate to bring up El Presidente week after week. But, you know, he's column-worthy, if not sponge-worthy. Apropos of the announcement of this year's Kennedy Center Honorees, along with news that El plans to host the event, a reporter asked if there were any truth to the rumors that he was considering renaming the venue with his own name. He chuckled and said, "Maybe in a week or so." Sometimes a joke ain't so funny.

I should have predicted this week's "Ask Billy" question. Gary in Miami wrote, "Is it true that **Antoni** is off the market? What do you know about his boyfriend?"

What can I say? Hot guys simply bounce back faster. They also tend to bounce up and down with enormous enthusiasm... but that's another story. As to **Antoni Porowski** from "Queer Eye", he hadn't been linked with anyone seriously since the implosion of his engagement to **Kevin Harrington**. Recently, however, he's been turning up at events with **Zacharias Niedzwicki**, who is described as a "personal trainer". What he is training little Antoni to do, I'll leave to your vivid imagination. Never underestimate the power of pecs (to say nothing of rock-hard abs). The duo has even taken the liaison to social media—which means something, according to my tween nieces. I don't want to minimize either of their appeal. It's entirely possible that they could have looks and other less tangible attributes. But for now, we'll let you sample their more visible wares on BillyMasters.com.

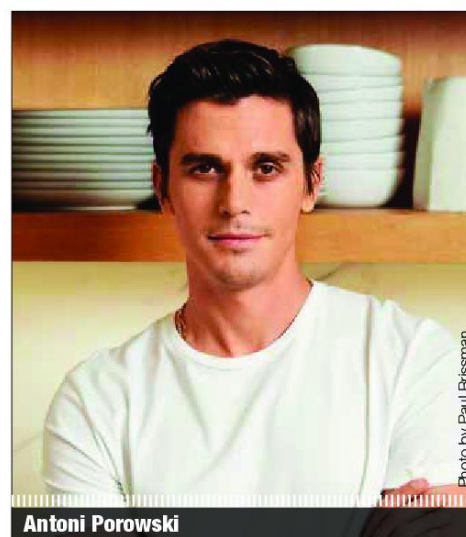
When one man's fuck buddy is another man's boyfriend (and who hasn't been there?), we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. I was thinking—Big Daddy lasted to 92. That means I could be writing this column another...oh, four decades or so (allowing for a generous conversion to gay years). If that's the case, you should probably get in on the ground floor of www.BillyMasters.com—the site that encourages bouncing of all kinds. The more you bounce, the looser my lips get...so to speak. If you'd like to try 'em out, drop a note and your questions to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before David Geffen endows a Billy Masters Chair (I always enjoy sharing a chair with a well-endowed man). Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



James Van Der Beek



Dame Helen Mirren



Antoni Porowski

Photo by Super Festivals, via Wikimedia Commons

Photo by Harald Krichel, via Wikimedia Commons

Photo by Paul Brissman

Gender Ideology

Continued from page 1

American Medical Association and other mainstream medical groups say: that extensive scientific research suggests sex and gender are better understood as a spectrum than as an either-or definition.

The funds in question in the Personal Responsibility Education Program total over \$81 million for the 40 states plus the District of Columbia and five territories where officials were also sent the letter. The officials were told they have 60 days to change the lessons or could lose their grants.

California was warned previously, and the \$12 million grant for that state was stripped on Aug. 21.

Now, other states will have until late October to decide whether to comply or give up the funding.

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong also suggested there could be legal challenges to the administration's effort.

"Threatening to defund our schools over this is completely unhinged and we're not going to let Trump steal money from our kids," he said in a statement.

The grants are used to teach adolescents about abstinence and contraception. They target education for those who are homeless, in foster care, living in rural areas or places with high teen birth rates — and minority groups, including LGBTQ+ populations.

Alison Macklin, spokesperson for SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change, said the grant money is used for things like training sex education instructors and for groups that present lessons in schools or after-school groups.

"This money is essential to states and territories to support sex education," she said. "They build critical life skills for young people."

She noted that some states have laws requiring education about lesbian, gay and transgender people.

In the letters, the federal Administration

for Children and Families pointed to specific examples in textbooks and curricula that they find objectionable.

For instance, a curriculum used in Alabama encourages the instructor to ask participants to share the pronouns they use.

It also tells the instructor to tell the class that people "may identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or straight. Some may identify as male, female or transgender. All of these differences make us unique. Regardless of how you see yourself, your background, previous relationships or experience, each of you has a place in this group."

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster applauded the warnings during a question-and-answer period with reporters this week.

"The things they describe there really have got no business being in there," he said. "Somebody has gone crazy somewhere trying to put all this stuff" in lessons.

Associated Press reporters Jeffrey Collins in Columbia, South Carolina, and Susan Haigh in Hartford, Connecticut, contributed to this article.

Audit

Continued from page 1

found that "individuals who pose a risk to student safety could remain in classrooms or educational settings without appropriate review or disciplinary action" due to inadequate investigation procedures.

For LGBTQ+ students, who already face disproportionate rates of bullying and harassment in schools, these oversight failures represent a particularly serious threat to their safety

and well-being.

The audit comes at a time when LGBTQ+ youth nationwide are facing increasing challenges in educational settings, making effective state oversight and protection mechanisms more crucial than ever.

Despite the concerning findings, there are signs of potential improvement ahead.

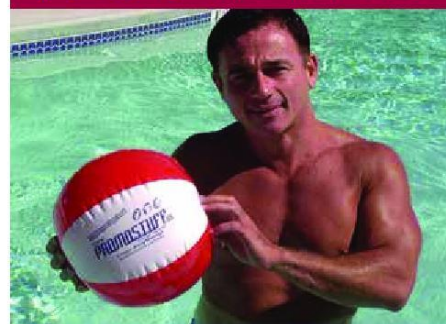
The Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ+ Youth has indicated its willingness to work with DESE to address these deficiencies.

The commission's executive director,

Shaplaie Brooks, expressed hope for future collaboration, stating her agency remains "committed to continuing our collaboration with DESE" and hopeful about "their commitment to ensure that all students across the Commonwealth have access to inclusive and intersectional education that is accurate and equitable."

The audit underscores the critical importance of state accountability in protecting LGBTQ+ students and ensuring schools provide truly safe, supportive learning environments for all students.

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