



Dignity for All: Safeguarding LGBT Students

By Peter M. DeWitt

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All students deserve a safe, respectful school environment

Students who identify as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, or transgendered are susceptible to dropping out of school. This book provides professional development ideas and real-life vignettes that will help educational leaders foster a more caring school culture not only for LGBT students, but for all students. Peter DeWitt provides specific strategies for school leaders that include:

- Implementing a student code of conduct and school board policies to safeguard students
- Helping staff members recognize and respond to overt and covert LGBT issues
- Ways to include appropriate LGBT topics in the curriculum
- Supporting Gay-Straight Alliances (GSA) in middle and high school settings

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Editorial Review

Review

"Dignity for All provides educators with critical information on the experiences of LGBT students in our schools and how to create safe and affirming spaces for these youth. Grounded in his experience as a teacher and school administrator, Peter DeWitt makes vital knowledge accessible for those on the front lines in schools."--Eliza Byard, Executive Director (12/08/2011)

"This book is a valuable resource guide for schools considering a course of action. It is recommended for all high schools seeking progressive change."--Kevin Beach"VOYA, August 2012" (08/29/2012)

"Dignity for All is a wise book that will help administrators, teachers, and parents work together to make sure that our schools are welcoming for all of our students. Peter DeWitt provides the insight and ideas to lead the way in including LGBT students."--Diane Ravitch, Research Professor (08/29/2011)"

"In this book, a group of students that is often misunderstood and frequently maligned finds a voice. Educators whose reach extends to every student will discover here a deeper understanding of these students' needs as well as sound advice on addressing those needs."--Carol Ann Tomlinson, William Clay Parrish, Jr. Professor (09/19/2011)"

Leaders set the tone for their buildings. Peter DeWitt offers an important resource for teachers and administrators that will help create an inclusive school for all students. --Todd Whitaker, Professor (11/21/2011)"

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About the Author

Consulting Description: LGBT Students

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Peter DeWitt (Ed.D) taught for 11 years and was a school principal for 8 years. He runs workshops and provides keynotes focusing on collaborative leadership, fostering inclusive school climates, and connected learning.

Peter is a Visible Learning Trainer for John Hattie, Instructional Coach for Jim Knight, and Student Voice Advocate for Russ Quaglia working nationally and internationally. He is the Series Editor for the *Connected Educator Series* (Corwin Press) and the forthcoming *Impact Leadership Series* (Corwin Press).

His *Finding Common Ground* blog is published by Education Week and he is a freelance writer for Vanguard Magazine (SAANYS). He is the 2013 School Administrators Association of New York State's (SAANYS) Outstanding Educator of the Year, and the 2015 Bammy Award winner for Education Blogger of the Year (Academy of Education Arts & Sciences).

Peter's first educational book, *Dignity for All: Safeguarding LGBT Students* was published in 2012, and was the topic of his doctoral dissertation. In 2013 Peter contributed a chapter to *De-Testing and De-Grading Schools: Authentic Alternatives to Accountability and Standardization* (Peter Lang, USA). His other books include: *School Climate Change: How Do I Foster a Positive School Climate* (ASCD 2014, co-authored with

Sean Slade) and *Flipping Leadership Doesn't Mean Reinventing the Wheel* (Corwin Press, 2014) Peter is the co-chair of the National School Climate Council. His articles have appeared in education journals at the state, national and international level. He has written for Principal Magazine, Education Week, Educational Leadership, The Huffington Post, PBS, ASCD Whole Child, Connected Principals, Smartblogs, and ASCD Express.

Peter has presented at forums, conferences, and panel discussions at state, national conferences and international conferences. Some of the highlights have been to present for the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP 2012, 2014, & 2015), the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD 2012, 2015, 2016), ICLE's Model Schools, Osiris World Conference in London, and he sat on a School Safety panel on NBC's Education Nation with Goldie Hawn and Hoda Kotb.

Peter has worked with the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), the National Education Association (NEA), the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the National Association of School Psychologists, the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), the National School Climate Center, GLSEN, PBS, NBC, NPR, BAM Radio Network and ABCnews.com.

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