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Editorials

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Kanawha schools should educate first

Next month the Kanawha County Board of Education will consider requiring diversity training for teachers that will encourage tolerance of homosexuality and other sexual orientations.

The upcoming vote has upset some members of the community and has drawn hundreds of comments from the public.

Discrimination is wrong, and teachers, of all people, should know this before they even step into the classroom.

To be sure, some students, particularly boys, do discriminate against openly homosexual students or students whom they think appear to be homosexual.

Teachers, administrators and other employees are already making it abundantly clear that such bullying is unacceptable.

For that matter, all bullying, for whatever reason, is unacceptable.

Or, as one parent put it in a comment to the board: "Students bullying homosexual students should be punished just as any other student that bullies any other student."

The comments suggest that some parents fear that children will be indoctrinated into accepting beliefs their parents do not share. Many religions consider homosexuality to be a sin, which is their right, but it would have to be a mighty peculiar religion that condones harassment or bullying of homosexuals.

The board requires its employees to take eight training sessions each year. Diversity training is one of them. For a couple of decades now, it's been the trendy thing to do.

One wonders if the real beneficiaries of such training are the trainers who draw a paycheck for telling people what they already know.

Putting teachers through these exercises year after year seems a needless expense.

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7 Comments on "Kanawha schools should educate first"

Area Man (40 minutes ago) [Report Abuse](#)
"Many religions consider homosexuality to be a sin, which is their right..."

Yeah, but their rights end where another person's rights begin and these kids have every right to be what they were born as without fear or discrimination.

So as long as people like Jeremy Dys work hard to keep homosexuals marginalized in 2nd class citizen status, school boards will have to put forth more effort to counteract it.

If any public school teacher has a religious conflict with the school system's policy of tolerance for gays, then they're working in the wrong place, aren't they?

uh huh... (3 hours ago) [Report Abuse](#)
THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!! Finally a no nonsense approach and attitude concerning all the bologna classes we pay for. Hire qualified teachers, put them in a classroom full of kids, give them the authority to run it as they see fit, pay them fairly, and cut out the B.S.!! No child should ever be bullied, and no child should ever be a bully; end of that story. Teaching teachers to promote an agenda to make students more accepting of the GLBT community is something better accomplished by parents.

fedup (4 hours ago) [Report Abuse](#)
TRAIN the teachers in Math, ENGLISH, Science, etc and dont waste any more taxpayer \$ on *&^% like this. What about the poor straight white kids who get bullied? Bullying should be defined as bullying, PERIOD. Teachers are NOT there to teach tolerance. I thought teachers were supposed to TEACH kids reading, writing, arithmetic????

another_teacher (5 hours ago) [Report Abuse](#)
As someone who has to complete such training every year, I agree that it is wasteful spending on the teachers. However, teaching tolerance has been a priority for Kanawha County Schools for some years now and not all the students have gotten that message. They do not get it because of their parents. So to all that complain about their children being indocinated into some other form of thinking, I say that our goal is to teach how to get along with others. Keep the hate and bullying out of school, out of work, and eventually, of our life in general, and this would be a much better place to live.
