



Project Prom: 2015

The Pikes Peak Safe @ School Coalition (PPS@SC) conducted “Project Prom: 2015” surveying local high schools in our community regarding their prom policies. We would like to thank all the local high schools who answered all our questions, and especially the high schools making an effort for all students to be safe and included. We would also like to thank all the PPS@SC members who helped us conduct this year’s survey.

About the Survey

In 2012, youth from Inside/Out Youth Services shared testimonials of not being allowed to attend prom with a same gender partner. At the time, stories nationwide focused on transgender students not being allowed to attend prom in the attire which corresponded with their gender identity. In 2013, we launched our first Project Prom surveying local high schools on prom policies. At the time, many schools were uncomfortable answering our questions, and we found many schools did not have policies in place.

The goals of Project Prom: 2015 are the following: (1) to ask these questions and find the answers on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning (LGBTIQ) youth we serve in the Pikes Peak Region; (2) reintroduce the PPS@SC to local high schools in our community; (3) understand the climate of LGBTIQ inclusivity in our community; and (4) act as a follow up to Project Prom: 2014.

Methods

Project Prom: 2015 kicked off on November 11th, 2014 inviting PPS@SC members to contact local high schools in the Pikes Peak Region via telephone. During, the months of December through April the PPS@SC members contacted local high schools in the Pikes Peak Region and documented their responses. The PPS@SC reached out to 26 local high schools.

Below are the questions asked and our Key Findings:

During Project Prom: 2015, 26 local high schools 23 replied to our questionnaire. We found 22 of the high schools would be hosting prom for students, and as we continued to ask questions from our survey the responses decreased.

Will students be allowed to bring a date of the same gender?

Out of the 20 high school responses: 19 answered yes, and 1 answered they did not know and it had not been discussed.

Nationally 18.1% of students were prevented from attending a dance or function with someone of the same gender. (GLSEN National School Climate Survey 2013)



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Does your school have a prom dress code and would be willing to share it with us? Could you explain if wearing opposite gender clothing would be accepted?

Out of the 19 high school responses: 7 answered yes, 7 answered yes so long as they follow the dress code, 1 answered they did not have a dress code, 3 answered they were unsure, and 1 answered no.

For the schools that were unsure they did not feel it would be an issue, however, they did not have an official answer to share.

31.6% of transgender students had been prevented from wearing clothes considered inappropriate based on their legal sex. (GLSEN National School Climate Survey 2013)

If your school is offering discounts to couples, will this offer be extended to same gender couples as well?

Out of the 17 high school responses: 6 schools answered yes, 8 answered they will only be selling individual tickets, and 3 answered no.

LGBT students experienced a safer, more positive school environment when:

- Their school had a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) or similar student club.
- They were taught positive representations of LGBT people, history, and events through their school curriculum.
- They had supportive school staff who frequently intervened in biased remarks and effectively responded to reports of harassment and assault.
- Their school had an anti-bullying/ harassment policy that specifically included protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

If you are interested in having the Pikes Peak Safe @ School Coalition help your school become safe and affirming for all students contacts us at director@insideoutys.org or call (719) 328-1056.

For more information on the results of Project Prom: 2014 visit: <https://www.insideoutys.org/project-prom-2014-report/>