



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Chuck Smith

Interim Executive Director, Equality Texas

512-474-5475

### Protect our Youth - "Radical" Revisionists Hijacking our Students' Education

#### State Board of Education Perpetuates Ignorance and Shortchanges our Children's Development

Austin, Texas (May 12, 2010) - Equality Texas today urges the State Board of Education (SBOE) to modify proposed Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards to more accurately reflect our society and history. Despite millions of Texans identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT), the SBOE omits any discussion of LGBT people in the proposed curriculum standards. Equality Texas, a statewide legislative advocacy organization, is submitting more than a dozen comments and suggested revisions to the SBOE in order to foster a healthier development for all Texas youth.

Even though nearly three out of four adults in the United States (73%) personally know or work with a gay or transgender person (\*\*), the standards treat LGBT people as non-existent.

A sample of changes Equality Texas proposes for the TEKS standards:

- foster healthy lives for our kids with an accurate and age-appropriate discussion of gender and sexual orientation/identity under the psychology and/or sociology sections;
- discuss diversity of families (blended, families led by same-sex couples and single parents) under the sociology section;
- include past and current human rights struggle of LGBT people under the United States history studies section.

Currently, our policy experts are on standby for your media outlet, in order to elaborate on our suggestions. We can also find you local activists who are available for comment.

Equality Texas plans to advocate at next week's State Board of Education meeting on May 19th, at 9 a.m. at the William B. Travis Building in Austin, Texas.

**History:**

As a non-partisan organization with more than two decades of rich history, Equality Texas has established itself as a policy and advocacy authority at the Texas Capitol and across the state. Equality Texas has achieved bipartisan support while accomplishing a strong legislative agenda. The organization successfully works for inclusive policies at the local and state levels. Equality Texas is comprised of a professional staff and volunteer advocates committed to working across the state in partnership with members, allies and like-minded organizations.

(\*\*) Source: "Pulse of Equality, A Snapshot of U.S. Perspectives on Gay and Transgender People and Policies", Harris Interactive- Public Relations Research Team, December 2, 2008.

**Equality Texas** advocates and lobbies for the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

