



How to Find Schools Friendly to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Families Second Annual Forum in Oakland

WHAT: *Journalists are invited to attend a session for school administrators, teachers, and parents on creating inclusive and welcoming environments for children of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) families.*

This second annual Oakland forum is designed to give participants an introduction to innovative and groundbreaking strategies to ensure kids of LGBT families are welcomed and treated inclusively by public schools and to help integrate LGBT people into broader goals for full inclusion in school communities.

The first Oakland forum held last year drew approximately 100 participants. More are expected to attend the second annual forum.

There will also be breakout sessions by school district.

WHO: *Co-sponsored by Our Family Coalition and the East Bay Community Foundation, The forum is intended to provide LGBT parents, LGBT family members,, teachers and school administrators with opportunities to discuss groundbreaking strategies for creating inclusive and welcoming environments for LGBT parents/caregivers and their children.*

The Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont, and San Leandro school districts, as well as independent schools, have been invited to participate.

The event will feature introductory remarks by East Bay Community Foundation Board member Debbie Alvarez-Rodriguez, President & Chief Executive Officer, Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, San Mateo & Marin.

There will be a panel discussion moderated by Judy Appel, Executive Director of Our Family Coalition. The panel includes:

- Barry Chersky, education consultant with expertise in LGBT issues in schools;
- Susan Hodge, Principal of Emerson Elementary School in Berkeley;
- Caryn Chan, teacher at Oxford Elementary School in Berkeley; and

- Parent Huda Jadallah, who has a child in the Oakland Unified School District

WHERE & WHEN:

* Chabot Elementary School, 6686 Chabot Road, Oakland.

* 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007.

WHY: *To promote and facilitate school environments friendly to all*

The number of LGBT families in the East Bay is on the rise. The extent to which public schools are welcoming and inclusive for children of LGBT families in Alameda County affects at least 2,163 children with a median age of 6.2 years, according to the 2000 U.S. census, though the real number is probably much larger.

This annual forum is intended to share information and success stories among parents, educate parents about what questions to ask in their school searches, and to provide a friendly setting in which parents and participating schools can communicate with each other.

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