

A Systemic Approach to Serving LGBTQ+ Students and Families in K-12 Schools



Dr. Rob Darrow



Dr. Farris Sabbah

Session Description: Many districts, schools and county offices have been involved in identifying ways to better serve the needs of LGBTQ+ students and their families. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education, along with organizations in Santa Cruz, have been at the forefront of better understanding the needs of LGBTQ+ students through data and the development of various tools to improve the overall school climate. This session will focus on the various elements that should be addressed in developing a systemic plan to better serve LGBTQ+ students and their families.

Various tools will be shared including how to use California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) data for better understanding LGBTQ+ students, use of the LGBTQ+ School Climate Index, curriculum guides for teachers to implement the FAIR Education Act and the California Healthy Youth Act, and the use of the LGBTQ+ cultural proficiency assessment. Leave this session knowing what action to take in your district, school or county office to better support LGBTQ+ students in your community.

Audience: K-12

Dr. Faris Sabbah is the County Superintendent of Schools in Santa Cruz County where he has served since 2018. Over the past 25 years, he has served as county deputy superintendent, county assistant superintendent, university professor, director, assistant principal, teacher, and instructional aide. He carries a deep sense of urgency to disrupt inequitable practices and is committed to the values of diversity, equity and inclusion. Read more about the recently updated Santa Cruz County Office of Education strategic plan at: www.santacruzcoe.org/superintendent/2019-2024-strategic-plan/

Dr. Rob Darrow is a lifelong Californian who serves as an educational consultant in LGBTQ+ history, safe and inclusive schools, curriculum development, college and career planning, and digital learning. His research interests include LGBTQ+ history, safe and inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ youth, professional learning, blended and online learning, and school libraries. He has worked as an online school principal, adjunct professor, school librarian, and teacher in K-12 schools throughout California. Read more about Dr. Darrow's work at: www.RobDarrow.us.