KEY DATA IN SUPPORT OF WELCOMING SCHOOLS

SCHOOL CLIMATE AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
An improved school climate has a significant positive impact on academic achievement. Plus achievement gaps decrease in schools with a positive school climate.

When students report a more severe bullying climate in their school, up to 5% fewer students pass state mandated standardized tests.
Virginia High School Safety Study (2000)

BIAS-BASED BULLYING
4 out of 5 of students who are harassed are targeted because of their identity including race, national origin, gender, actual or perceived sexual orientation, religion or ability.

Compared with students harassed for other reasons, students who feel harassed for their race, religion, ability, perceived sexual orientation, or gender are more likely to have lower grades and skip school.

Students targeted with anti-gay putdowns are more likely to report higher levels of depression and anxiety, and a lower sense of school belonging regardless of their sexual orientation.

On average about 1 in 20 students were afraid to go to school at least once in the past month. This rises to 1 in 15 for Black and Hispanic students and to 1 in 10 for students who identify as LGB or who are not sure of their sexual identity.
Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2015, Center for Disease Control

GENDER AND HARASSMENT
Almost one-quarter of students in California are harassed because they are not “as masculine as other guys” or “as feminine as other girls.”

Higher levels of homophobic teasing are linked with more bullying and subsequently more sexual harassment.

About one in six students who had expressed their gender in a way that was different than their sex assigned at birth, stopped going to school for a period of time due to harassment. Almost half of that group experienced homelessness as well.
Jamie M. Grant et al. (2011) National Transgender Discrimination Survey.

Schools that promote greater gender equity and do not tolerate sexual or gendered harassment have significantly less bullying, less aggression and victimization, and there is a greater willingness to intervene.