

schools by reviewing educational policies, recommending best practices for creating inclusive environments, and advising on strategies to support the mental health and well-being of LGBTQIA+ students. The Commission will also advise on curriculum inclusivity and professional development for educators.

The Commission will consist of 20 to 25 members. Five of the members will be Cabinet members or their designees, including the Commissioners of Education, Children and Families, Health, Human Services, and the Attorney General.

The Executive Director of the Commission will be Kate Okeson. Kate is a New Jersey educator and long-time advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community. She is the co-founder and director of Make it Better for Youth, an organization that addresses the social and educational outcomes of LGBTQIA+ youth. Her experience leading an organization focused on educator-to-educator initiatives, including the development of an LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Curriculum, will serve her well in directing the Commission.

“New Jersey is delivering on its promise to all students in our public schools by assembling this strong and committed group of advocates and state leaders. I’m honored to be part of the team at the national forefront of realizing inclusive and affirming schools, and ensuring positive outcomes for our LGBTQIA+ youth,” **said Kate Okeson, Executive Director of the Advisory Commission on Advancing LGBTQIA+ Youth Equity and Inclusion in Schools.**

To view Executive Order No. 361, [click here \(https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-361.pdf\)](https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-361.pdf).

Governor Phil Murphy

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