

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
MARCH 26, 2026**

RESOLUTION 4943

FOR ACTION

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL
TRANSGENER DAY OF VISIBILITY**

WHEREAS, International Transgender Day of Visibility, observed annually on March 31, celebrates the contributions, resilience, and lived experiences of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals; and

WHEREAS, the South Orange–Maplewood School District is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and equitable learning environment for all students, and affirms the dignity and worth of every student and family; and

WHEREAS, visibility and affirmation are critical to the well-being and academic success of transgender and gender non-conforming students; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes with concern ongoing incidents of bullying and harassment targeting transgender students, which must not be ignored; and

WHEREAS, the Board further acknowledges a broader national climate in which transgender individuals face heightened scrutiny, actions, and even policies that may contribute to feelings of marginalization or vulnerability; and

WHEREAS, transgender students may experience intersecting forms of discrimination, requiring an inclusive, responsive, and proactive approach by the district;

WHEREAS, the district is committed to enforcing policies that prohibit discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on gender identity or

expression, including through the continued implementation of Board Policy 5756;
and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Orange–Maplewood Board of Education recognizes March 31 as International Transgender Day of Visibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board reaffirms its commitment to supporting transgender and gender non-conforming students and families, ensuring their safety, inclusion, and full participation in the life of the district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board calls upon all members of the school community to stand against bullying and harassment in all forms and to actively foster a culture of respect, empathy, and belonging; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board will continue its oversight to ensure that the District is engaging with students and families, listening to concerns, and responding with appropriate supports and actions to ensure student safety and well-being;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be read publicly in advance of March 31 as a clear statement of the district's values and expectations.