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# LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVITY IN MUSIC EDUCATION

**IN THE CHAT: INSTRUMENT AND  
STATE OR COUNTRY YOU ARE FROM?**

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**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE INCLUSIVE?  
WHAT DOES AN INCLUSIVE MUSIC  
CLASSROOM LOOK LIKE?**

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# OVERVIEW

- ▶ Sex vs. Gender
- ▶ LGBTQ+ Wellness
  - ▶ State Policies
- ▶ LGBTQ+ Students in Music Education
- ▶ Inclusivity, including barriers to inclusivity:
  - ▶ Heteronormativity & Cisnormativity
  - ▶ Heterosexual & Cisgender Privilege
- ▶ Strategies for LGBTQ+ Inclusivity in Music Education

**ITS REAL SIMPLE PEOPLE**



**RESTROOM**

**XX XY**

memise.com



**Charlie Kirk** ✓ @charliekirk11 · Sep 29, 2017

There are only two genders

419

1.9K

7.6K



**David Weissman** ✓

@davidmweissman

Replying to @charliekirk11 and @Phibear94

It is biologically impossible to have more than 2 genders.



**David James** ✗

@Dai\_James1942

Follow

There are two genders, distinguishable by genitalia.

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# SEX

- ▶ Concepts like: male, female, intersex
- ▶ Biological sex refers to genotype (sex chromosomes) and phenotype (reproductive organs, gamete production, other physical attributes, ratios of sex hormones, and secondary sexual characteristics)
- ▶ Wide variety of genotypes are possible, including:  
XX, XY, X, XX/XY, XXX, XXY, XYY, XXXX, XXXY, XXYY, XXXXY, XXXXX
- ▶ XX and XY can result in many variations in phenotype... additional possibilities for identifying biological sex?



# GENDER

- ▶ Concepts like: femininity, masculinity, woman, man, androgyny, non-binary, genderqueer, transgender, cisgender, gender-nonconforming
- ▶ Gender is:
  - ▶ socially constructed
  - ▶ performed
  - ▶ a spectrum





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## LGBTQ+ WELLNESS

- ▶ When compared to their straight peers, LGBTQ+ folks encounter higher rates of depression, anxiety, traumatic distress, social phobia, bullying, substance use and abuse, missing school, feeling hopeless, and suicide-related behaviors
- ▶ Being LGBTQ+ itself does not put folks at higher risks of these behaviors, it is the reaction from the environment (society, family, schools, etc.) that increase these risks

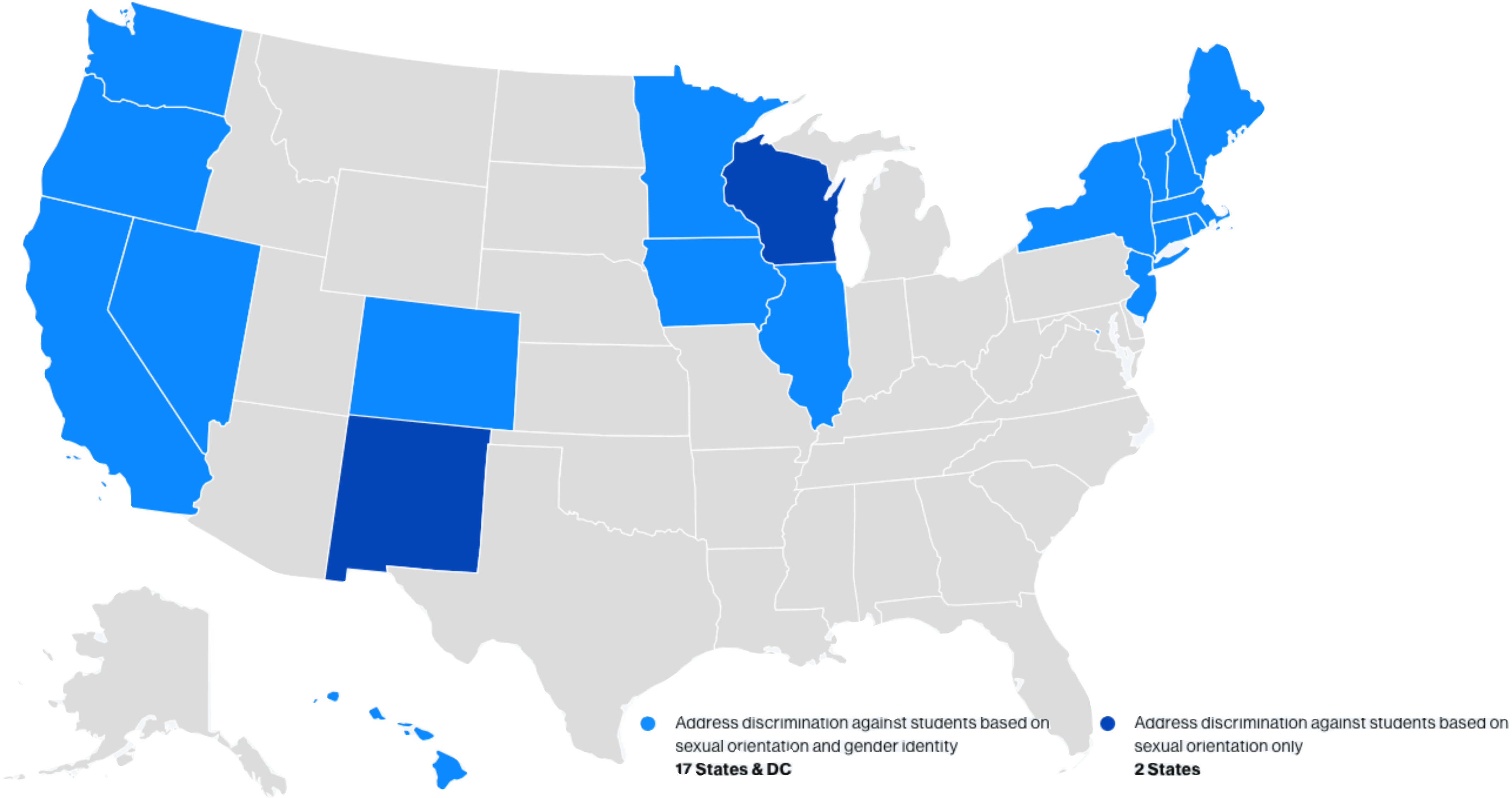




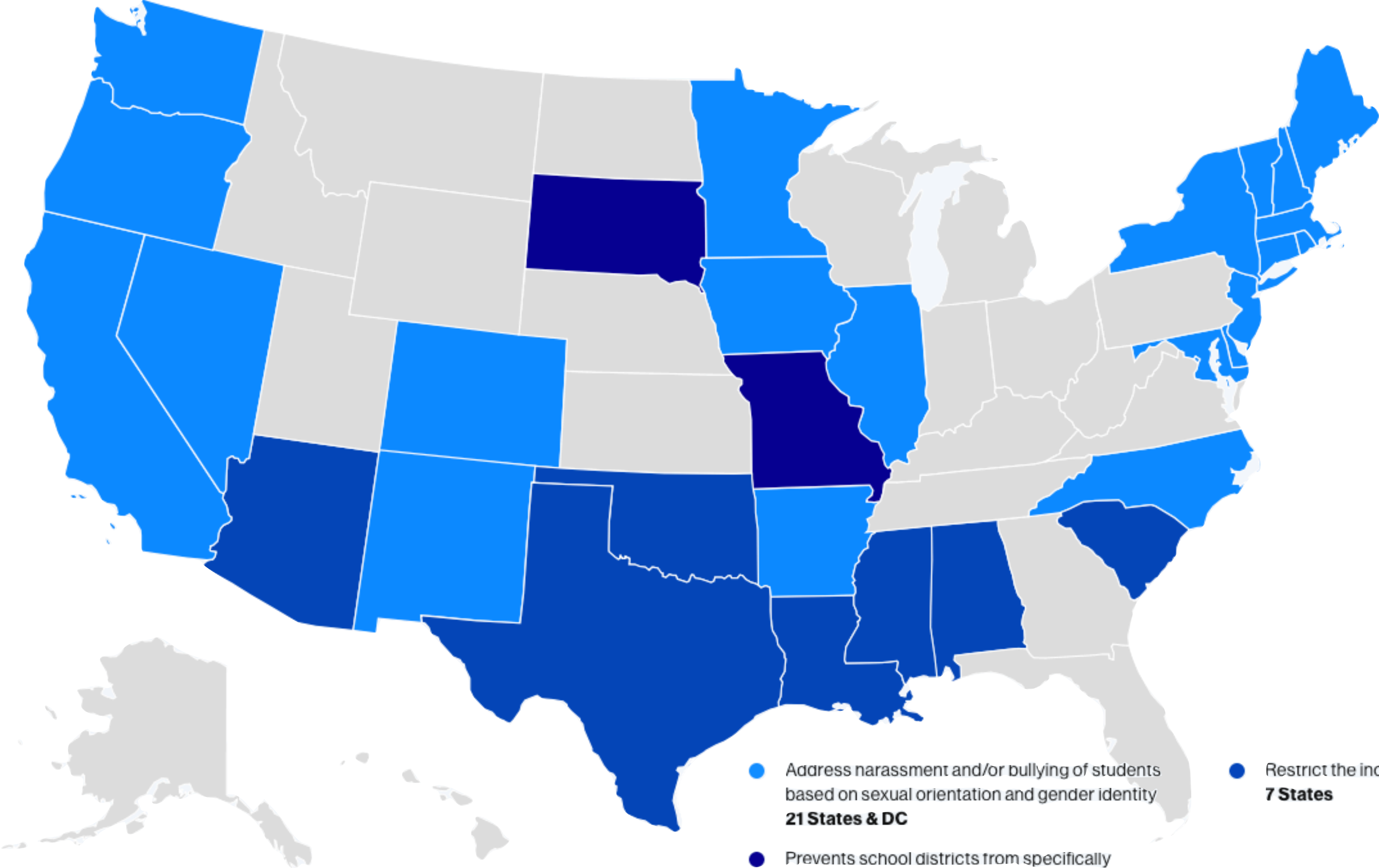


# SCHOOL ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

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# SCHOOL ANTI-BULLYING



● Address harassment and/or bullying of students based on sexual orientation and gender identity  
**21 States & DC**

● Prevents school districts from specifically protecting LGBTQ students  
**2 States**

● Restrict the inclusion of LGBTQ topics in schools  
**7 States**



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## LGBTQ+ STUDENTS IN MUSIC EDUCATION

- ▶ Music classrooms can become subcultures within a school, providing a place for students to belong
- ▶ Nearly 50% of LGBTQ+ students report participating in school bands, orchestras, and choirs; 14% report also participating as leaders in these groups

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**Q1: THREE SUMMARIZING AND/OR  
INTERESTING POINTS FROM THE  
ARTICLE?**

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## HETEROSEXUAL & CISGENDER PRIVILEGE

- ▶ Straight and cisgender students/teachers can
  - ▶ comfortably show romantic interest
  - ▶ see representations of their romantic love/gender in songs, musicals
  - ▶ attend prom or an overnight music department trips without “special conditions”
  - ▶ speak freely about personal life, activities, stories
  - ▶ share pictures of spouse/partners/families
  - ▶ wear a wedding ring without concern for someone asking about their partner
  - ▶ be confident they were not fired, denied a job, or refused housing for being straight, cisgendered

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## HETERONORMATIVITY & CISNORMATIVITY

- ▶ Heteronormativity and cisnormativity: beliefs, practices, or policies that reinforce the notions that all people are heterosexual and that gender is a strict binary (i.e., straight and cis-gender is normal and any deviation is unnatural or abnormal)
  - ▶ Disney movies with Prince and Princess storylines
  - ▶ "Boy" and "Girl" sections for toys



## Q2: WHAT ARE HETERONORMATIVE AND/OR CISNORMATIVE PRACTICES SOMETIMES SEEN IN MUSIC EDUCATION?

- ▶ Hint: Think clothing, voice parts, instrument selection, ensemble names, musical storylines, song lyrics...

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**Q3: HOW MIGHT YOU CREATE A MORE  
INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR LGBTQ+ FOLKS?**

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# STRATEGIES FOR LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVITY IN MUSIC EDUCATION

How might you \_\_\_\_\_ to create a more inclusive space for LGBTQ+ folks?

- ▶ use language differently
- ▶ show or demonstrate support
- ▶ design classroom management procedures
- ▶ develop school community
- ▶ honor names and pronouns
- ▶ include LGBTQ folks in the curriculum
- ▶ develop classroom community
- ▶ use or provide resources
- ▶ address personal and concert attire
- ▶ name ensembles
- ▶ discuss or alter lyrics
- ▶ engage with colleagues

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**THANK YOU!**

**QUESTIONS?**