

# COLORADO YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS

## PREAMBLE

Colorado 9to25 is creating a movement to elevate our vision of what youth in Colorado deserve. The Youth Bill of Rights outlines rights that we believe should be ensured for every youth in Colorado.

The following truths apply to all of the rights listed here:

- ★ Colorado youth of all cultures, races, genders, abilities, religions, spirituality, sexual orientations, language, place of residence, immigration and socioeconomic statuses have the following rights.
- ★ Colorado youth have the right to be respected, heard, and valued.
- ★ Colorado youth have the right to live, work and go to school in conditions of freedom and dignity.

If any groups, communities do not feel represented in this document, we have the power to change it to ensure this document represents all Coloradan youth.

## SAFETY

### COLORADO YOUTH HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- ★ Live, work, and go to school in safe, supportive, respectful, and healthy environments.
- ★ Live, work, and go to school in environments that protect them from discrimination and oppression.
- ★ Protect their personal information whether written or digital and make sure what is written and said about them is true.

## HEALTH

### COLORADO YOUTH HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- ★ Be healthy (health includes physical, mental, sexual, moral, spiritual and social development).
- ★ Receive education and accurate information about issues that may affect their health, including nutrition and sexual health.
- ★ Affordable, accessible and quality health care and preventative services that is provided by well trained and competent health care providers.
- ★ Health care that protects their dignity, privacy and confidentiality, except in cases of mandatory reporting. Provider should inform youth clients as to whether the information they share may be kept confidential.
- ★ Live, work and go to school in healthy environments. This includes clean air, water, soil, recreational opportunities, and nutritious foods.

## EDUCATION

### COLORADO YOUTH HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- ★ A high quality education system that is adequately funded with well-trained and supported teachers and administration.
- ★ An education that develops abilities, skills, individual judgment, a sense of moral and social responsibility and prepares them to be a contributing member of society.
- ★ An education that respects and includes varied perspectives in which youth feel empowered by seeing their culture and heritage represented in their education.
- ★ A safe educational environment where policies enable youth participation and provide education on anti-bullying practices.
- ★ Be assessed and understood as a whole person in addition to their academic success.

## THANK YOU!

By implementing the Youth Bill of Rights we can ensure that our youth can work and interact alongside of adults in a meaningful and respectful manner.

This change will have positive ripple effects throughout our state, country and the world!

## CONNECTION

### COLORADO YOUTH HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- ★ Relationships that support their development and prepare them for adulthood. Including the right to have support from family and community through positive adult relationships.
- ★ Be connected to where they live, work and go to school in ways that acknowledge and support their strengths as well as needs.
- ★ Affordable public transportation for the purposes of education, employment, family, community needs, and recreation.
- ★ Resources and programs in their native language that provide them with clear and meaningful, culturally and linguistically appropriate communications.

## CONTRIBUTION

### COLORADO YOUTH HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- ★ Have opportunities to actively participate where they live, work and go to school.
- ★ Engage in planning and decision making about their future.
- ★ Be informed, educated and represented in any institution that affects their lives.
- ★ Be viewed as a person capable of changing, growing, and positively contributing to their community.
- ★ Be compensated for their time, efforts and contributions..