



The mission of the American School Health Association (ASHA) is to transform all schools into places where every student learns and thrives. To achieve this, ASHA is wholly committed to healthy school environments that promote and foster equity, inclusivity, and respect for all.

ASHA is saddened by recent events in Missouri, the site of our upcoming Annual Conference. We are aware the NAACP issued a travel advisory from August 2, through 28, 2017 that states, in part, “for African American travelers, visitors, and Missourians to pay special attention and exercise extreme caution when traveling throughout the state given the series of questionable, race-based incidents occurring statewide recently and noted therein.” The full statement may be read [here](#). Further exacerbating conditions is the recent unrest in St. Louis resulting from the acquittal of a police officer in the killing of a black man. The selection of St. Louis, Missouri as our conference city occurred long before these events came to light.

ASHA unequivocally denounces any and all discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity and expression, creed, religion, disability, or sexual orientation. ASHA wholehearted believes our mission cannot be accomplished until each and every student, staff, and school community member feels safe, supported, respected, and valued.

For conference participants, we take your safety seriously. We have been in contact with the management of Hilton at the Ballpark, and they have assured us a safe and welcoming environment. We will continue to monitor the situation and work tirelessly to ensure a conference that reflects our values of inclusivity, kindness, and respect.

For the students and school staff we serve, our commitment remains strong. Holding our conference in St. Louis in no way shows support for state policies that may undermine our core values. We remain committed to ensuring schools are places where all of our nation’s youth are welcomed, cherished, nurtured, and challenged.