

Best Practices For Creating Safe Schools for Transgender Students



Creating inclusive and supportive schools for transgender students decreases the stigmas often associated with being transgender and increases student's safety, social interactions, learning opportunities, and participation in school activities. Below are some best practices to help create safe and supportive schools for all students regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

- Work with transgender identified students and find out what will work for them. Do not assume there is a one size fits all solution.
- Reduce gender segregation whenever possible, including bathrooms, locker rooms, dress codes, graduation gowns, sports teams, separating into groups for activities, etc. When gender segregation is unavoidable, transgender students must be allowed to go where they feel comfortable and safe. (Note: This choice may differ for each transgender student– ask, don't assume).
- Allow transgender students to use the locker room that corresponds with their gender identity, if that is their choice. Also offer the option of using a private or alternate changing room whenever possible. (Note: Creating single stall facilities may be beneficial to all students, as many students have body image issues and/or privacy needs. These students may also feel unsafe or uncomfortable in shared bathrooms and locker rooms.)
- Address privacy concerns. A transgender student may feel that having to go to the nurse's office to change will "out" them and create an unsafe space for them. Uphold transgender students' right to privacy and confidentiality.