

Frequently Asked Questions: The School Success and Opportunity Act (AB 1266)

1. What is the School Success and Opportunity Act?

Introduced in February 2013 by Assemblymember Tom Ammiano and co-authored by Senators Mark Leno and Ricardo Lara, the School Success and Opportunity Act (AB 1266) makes clear the obligation of California schools to allow transgender students to participate in all school activities, programs, and facilities.

2. Why is the School Success and Opportunity Act necessary?

Every student should have a fair chance to fully participate and succeed in school so that they can graduate with their classmates. But in many cases, students who are transgender are unable to get the credits they need to graduate on time when they do not have a place to get ready for gym class. They are denied important educational opportunities when they are not allowed to participate in school activities based on who they are.

While existing law already broadly prohibits discrimination against transgender students, AB 1266 will make sure that schools understand their responsibility for the success and well-being of all students and that parents and students understand their rights.

3. What will the School Success and Opportunity Act do?

AB 1266 will make it clear to school districts, teachers, parents and students that California's nondiscrimination law requires public schools to respect a transgender student's identity in all school programs, activities, and facilities. This bill will simply ensure that transgender boys and girls are treated just like all other boys and girls so that they can participate fully in school activities and graduate on time.

4. What impact will the School Success and Opportunity Act have on schools?

This bill will make sure that school administrators know their responsibilities to ensure that all students have the opportunity to fully participate and succeed in school. LAUSD and other districts have successfully implemented policies in line with this law that ensure that no one is left out.

5. How much will the School Success and Opportunity Act cost?

This bill does not require schools to create new programs or new facilities for any students, so it does not carry a cost. In fact, making sure schools know their responsibilities may help avoid costly lawsuits.