

Dear Romulus Community,

The State Education Department's 2023 Guidance Document on supporting transgender students<sup>1</sup> directs that a student's statement of their gender identity is enough for the school to rely upon to institute the student's preferences. We all have a gender identity; now, however, students are increasingly becoming more comfortable expressing their gender identities, and schools have an important role in supporting their students.

There has been widespread interest in the District's procedures and the relevant law related to transgender students. This letter aims to provide brief information on the topic. More information is available from the District's counselors or at the District Office.

#### **SOME RELEVANT DEFINITIONS**

**Gender Identity:** personal sense of self, how one perceives and identifies themselves; not visible to others

**Gender Expression:** display and communication of gender identity through behavior, clothing, hairstyle, name, pronouns, and activities ; visible to others

**Biological Sexual Identity:** anatomy (often corresponds to "sex assigned at birth," unless a person has physically transitioned to another sex)

**Sexual Orientation:** physical, romantic and/or emotional attraction to one or more or no other gender

**Transgender:** one whose gender identity does not correspond to sex assigned at birth

**Cisgender:** one whose gender identity and sex assigned at birth match

#### **WHAT A STUDENT CAN UNILATERALLY DIRECT**

Their affirmed name (spoken, written on assignments, tests, student ID)

Their affirmed pronoun

To use the restroom and locker room corresponding to their gender identity

To play sports in accordance with their gender identity (by following rules of NYSPHSAA)

To participate in PE class in a way that corresponds with their gender identity

#### **PERMANENT STUDENT RECORDS**

##### **What Requires Parental Consent if Student isn't 18 (or enrolled in postsecondary school)**

If a student and their family want to change *permanent* student records, they may ask the District to do so, consistent with a FERPA amendment request

The District can change a student's name/pronoun if the request is made by the parent/guardian if the student is not yet 18. If a student is 18, they may make the request

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<sup>1</sup> "Creating a Safe, Supportive, and Affirming School Environment for Transgender and Gender Expansive Students,"

[nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/student-support-services/creating-a-safe-supportive-and-affirming-school-environment-for-transgender-and-gender-expansive-students.pdf](https://nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/student-support-services/creating-a-safe-supportive-and-affirming-school-environment-for-transgender-and-gender-expansive-students.pdf)