

FORT WORTH ISD TRANSGENDER STUDENT GUIDELINE

7/19/2016

Pursuant to Fort Worth ISD Policy and Section 11.201(8) of the Texas Education Code, the Fort Worth ISD Board of Trustees has directed the development of appropriate administrative regulations to implement policies established by the Board. The Fort Worth ISD seeks to insure the health and safety of **all** students, prevent discrimination and bullying, fostering conducive learning environment for all students, while providing equal access and opportunity to participate in all programs and activities. The following guidelines are directed to Fort Worth ISD campus administrators, guidance counselors and other educators, implementing FWISD Policy FFH (Local), to insure a safe and supportive environment for transgender students and their parent(s)/guardian(s). Campus administrators, guidance counselors and educators are expected to consider the needs of transgender students and their families on a case by case basis. School administrators, guidance counselors and educators shall engage with parent(s)/guardian(s) and work collaboratively with them and the student to develop individual support plans.

Parents are partners with educators, administrators, and the board in their children's education. Parents shall be encouraged to actively participate in creating and implementing education programs for their children. *Texas Education Code, §26.001(a)*. Unless otherwise provided by law, a board, an administrator, an educator or other person may not limit parental rights. *Texas Education Code, §26.001(c)*.

The following procedure will be used to address health and safety needs raised by transgender students and their parents, to prevent discrimination and bullying and foster the learning environment.

1. A transgender student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) should contact the Fort Worth ISD campus administrator or guidance counselor to request a meeting.
2. A meeting should be scheduled to discuss the student's unique circumstances and needs. In addition to the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s), the campus administrator may include other campus personnel, or supportive individuals the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) request, at the meeting to discuss unique circumstances and needs.

3. A student individual support plan shall be developed by the campus administrator, in consultation with the student, parent(s)/guardian(s) and guidance counselor to address the student's unique needs. Any requests for necessary accommodations should be identified and addressed in the student individual support plan. All accommodation requests should work in concert with any existing IEP or 504 Plan the student may already have in place. All student individual support plans will be consistent with codes of conduct, FWISD policies and Texas law.

4. The student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive copies of the student individual support plan.

5. The campus administrator, guidance counselor or school personnel may only share information regarding gender identity and expression with those in the school who have a legitimate educational interest, unless otherwise directed by the student or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).

6. A parent is entitled to full information regarding the school activities of the student, except as precluded by Texas law (i.e. *Texas Education Code § 38.004 – Child Abuse and Neglect*).

7. If a restroom or related facility accommodation is requested, the campus administrator should meet with the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the student's request for access to restrooms, locker rooms, or changing facilities. Each accommodation request will be reviewed and addressed on a case-by-case basis based upon the particular circumstances of the individual student and school facilities. The goal will be the creation of a safe and supportive environment for students impacted by the accommodation with due recognition of the privacy rights of all students.

8. As a general rule, in all facilities or activities when students may be separated by gender, transgender students may participate in accordance with the student individual support plan. Interscholastic athletic activities should be addressed by the University Interscholastic League ("UIL") Regulations, if applicable.