



AB 1955 – SAFETY Act FACT SHEET

Support Academic Futures & Equality for Today's Youth

The SAFETY Act was signed into law by Governor Newsom and went into effect January 1, 2025, replacing AB 1266, The School Success and Opportunity Act (2014) which clarified the rights of students of all genders and their access to educational resources and programs. The SAFETY Act now:

- Strengthens existing rights and protections for LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning+) students.
- Bans "forced outing" of students' LGBTQ+ identities.
- Provides students with the right to make their own decisions about when and how to share their LGBTQ+ identities.
- Directs the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop supports and resources for parents, guardians and families of LGBTQ+ students such as community-based organizations, support groups/safe spaces, and local service providers with experience in supporting and serving parents, families, and guardians of LGBTQ+ youth.

The SAFETY Act provides *additional protection* for educators. Retaliation or adverse action against any employee is not permitted when staff:

- Refuse to forcibly out a student.
- Follow requirements such as social science instruction that includes the roles/contributions of diverse Americans including LGBTQ+ Americans, and comprehensive sexual health education including instruction/materials recognizing that people have different orientations.
- Ensure bias is never allowed in the classroom. This means that a school cannot teach biased or discriminatory things about LGBTQ+ people or promote and reinforce gender stereotypes. For example, if a teacher discusses gender, orientation, or families, they should acknowledge, when appropriate, that there are different types of genders, orientations, and families and they should discuss them equally.
- Support students' rights to participate in sex-segregated school programs and activities, athletic teams, and use facilities consistent with the student's gender identity.

LGBTQ+ STUDENTS: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

The Right to Be You

You have the right to be out about your identities at school, regardless of your gender presentation. Work with your school, if possible, especially transgender and non-binary youth if you transition while in school.

Discrimination and Harassment

All students have the right to express themselves freely at school, to be treated equally and to be free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination.

Privacy and Outing Students

You have the right to keep your gender identity and/or sexual orientation private, school staff cannot out you without your permission to school staff, students or family.

Names and Pronouns

You have the right to be addressed by the name and pronouns that correspond with your gender identity; even if your name and gender are not legally changed. Your school should use your chosen name and pronouns on everything possible—your student ID, class attendance rosters, yearbook, and more. Your legal name should only appear on legally required documents.

Restrooms, Locker Rooms and Sports

Your school must allow you to use facilities that align with your gender identity. If you desire more privacy and prefer to use a more private restroom or changing area, you can ask whether your school can accommodate that. Your school must allow you to participate in PE and sports consistent with your gender identity.

Dress Code and Uniform Policies

You have the right to wear clothing that expresses your LGBTQ+ identities.

"California law has always provided additional protections beyond those that exist at the federal level. Those protections remain firmly in place."

– February 4, 2025, Press Release from Attorney General Rob Bonta

For more information on the law, see the California Department of Education website:



To learn about or request guidance on LGBTQ+ supports in Fresno Unified, please visit us on our website:

