

California Transgender & Gender-Diverse Student Rights

Parent Handout

Our Commitment

Palm Springs Unified School District is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for all students — including transgender, gender-expansive, and gender-diverse students. California law provides clear protections, and our district follows all state requirements.

1. Key Rights of Transgender & Gender-Diverse Students in California

Students have the right to:

- **Be free from discrimination** based on gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation (Ed Code §220).
 - **Use their affirmed name and pronouns** at school, even if they have not completed legal name changes.
 - **Keep their gender identity private** — schools cannot disclose a student's gender identity without the student's consent (Ed Code §220.3).
 - **Access restrooms, locker rooms, and programs** that match their gender identity (Ed Code §221.5(f)).
 - **Participate fully in school activities**, including sports and field trips, consistent with their gender identity.
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2. Why Schools May Not Immediately Inform Parents

Some students may not feel safe or ready to discuss their gender identity at home. California guidance requires schools to:

- Prioritize **student safety and well-being**.
- Avoid any policy or practice that “outs” a student without consent. (Ed Code §220.3)
- Support students in identifying **trusted adults** who can help them navigate conversations at home when they are ready.

We strive to partner with families while also honoring student confidentiality and state law.

3. How PSUSD Supports Students & Families

We work collaboratively to:

- Create welcoming classrooms for all gender identities.
- Provide access to counselors, wellness coaches, and social workers.
- Support families with information, communication, and resources.
- Develop individualized plans that honor the student and involve parents when appropriate.

If your child has expressed a desire to use a different name or pronouns, we can support a guided conversation with you and your student.

4. Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why didn't the teacher tell me my child requested a different name?

A: California law protects student privacy in matters related to gender identity. Staff must follow district and state guidance to ensure student safety. We encourage open communication and can facilitate discussions.

Q: Can I request a meeting to talk about my child's needs?

A: Absolutely — we welcome parent partnership.

Q: Does my child need legal documents to use a different name at school?

A: No. Students may use their chosen name and pronouns at school without a legal name change.

5. Who Can I Contact at PSUSD?

School Counselor – Student support & guidance

Site Administrator – School-level coordination

PSUSD Student Services – District guidance & rights information

PSUSD LGBTQ Alliance - lgbtq@psusd.us



Learn More

[ACLU of Southern California](#) • [CSBA Gender Identity Guidance](#) • [California Department of Education](#)