



Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender Expansive Students

I. Overview – Student Focused Procedures

It is PPS's goal to create a safe and welcoming environment for our students and staff, free of transphobia and homophobia. This directive is meant to identify procedures and provide guidance to central office and school staff so that transgender, nonbinary and gender expansive students are fully included in their school communities and have the supports necessary to actively participate in all school activities free of discrimination. When creating a plan of action or making decisions around how best to support a student, within the parameters of this directive, every effort should be made to include the student and the student's family.

PPS is continually improving and refining our efforts toward greater inclusion for LGBTQ2SIA+ and affirmation of staff and students. This requires an unwavering commitment to a systematic shift in paradigms to increase the understanding of sexual and gender diversity. Such a shift requires appropriate communication, professional development, collaboration with our labor partners, and a commitment from the Board, PPS staff, students, and families.

This directive furthers the Board of Education's Non-Discrimination Policy 1.80.020-P which prohibits discrimination based on race; national or ethnic origin; color; sex; religion; age; sexual orientation; gender expression or identity; pregnancy; marital status; familial status; economic status or source of income; mental or physical disability or perceived disability; or military service. This directive also furthers the Board of Education's Anti-Harassment Policy 4.30.060-P, which prohibits harassment, discrimination, bullying and retaliation based on a person's protected class.

II. Definitions

Please refer to the [LGBTQ2SIA+ Supports Glossary](#) to learn more about accepted terminology for important concepts relating to gender expression and identity. This glossary will be updated regularly as definitions evolve or new words come into use.

III. Gender Identification Confidentiality

- A. Families are not required to disclose their student's sex assigned at birth to any school representative. It is their right to maintain this confidential medical information. Additionally, the Family Education Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) applies to all aspects of a student's identity, including gender identity. Under FERPA, generally only those school employees "determined to have legitimate educational interest" may have access to a student's records or the information contained within those records.
- B. The school should work closely with the student and, when indicated, their family in devising a plan to maintain confidentiality and inform school staff on a need-to-know basis. Alternatively, if the student wishes to have other students be aware that they are transgender and/or that they are transitioning, they should be supported in doing so. In either case:
 - i. Portland Public Schools utilizes the [Gender Identity Support Guide](#) to assist students, their trusted adults, and staff in developing a comprehensive plan to

support the unique needs of the student.

- a. Students/caregivers may use the Meeting Request form to begin the process of creating a support plan. Schools must respond to the request within 10 business days of receipt.
 - b. All support plans are iterative and should be revisited at a regular interval and immediately following any major changes for the student.
 - ii. Students may include their trusted adult(s) in this process.
 - a. Trusted adults may be caregivers, teachers, coaches, counselors, social workers, school secretaries, educational assistants, nutritional services employees, custodians, school administrators, Racial Equity and Social Justice Department staff, etc. Students may choose to include trusted adults whose roles are not represented by this specific list.
 - b. It is not required for students to include all of these parties in this process.
 - iii. The school should make every effort to restrict access to the records maintained by the school (birth certificates, etc.) which identify assigned sex to persons authorized in the plan designed with the student.
- C. Student Information System (SIS) reports generated by the school, and that could be seen by students and/or staff who do not have a need to know, should not reveal the “gender marker” field for a student.
 - i. Class lists, attendance, and report cards should not include the “gender marker” field.
 - ii. SIS generated reports should include, where possible, asserted names (preferred name field) and, if available, pronouns for students.
- D. PPS and the State of Oregon recommend that all student transcripts be gender neutral and contain no indicator of gender for any student. Schools should suppress gender for all student transcripts, except when a student makes a specific request to show their gender on their transcript.
- E. Diplomas and transcripts for transgender students should be printed in duplicate, one in their legal name and the second in their asserted name.
- F. In some circumstances, our transgender, nonbinary or gender expansive students do not want their caregivers to know about their transgender, nonbinary, or gender expansive status and that they are expressing their asserted gender at school. We must balance our goal of supporting the student with the requirement that we keep caregivers informed when there are safety concerns and that our actions are consistent with our obligations under FERPA. In these circumstances, building administrators should work with their supervisor, the General Counsel’s office, and the Racial Equity and Social Justice Director.

IV. Names And Pronouns

- A. Students of all ages have the right to be addressed by a name and pronouns that correspond to their gender identity. Regardless of whether a transgender, nonbinary, or gender expansive student has legally changed their name or gender marker,

students and staff must always use the pronoun and name with which the student identifies or requests. Misgendering can cause severe psychological harm and jeopardize a student's safety at school.

- B. Students of all ages have the right to be addressed by a name and pronouns that align with their gender expression.
- C. PPS will not require caregiver/guardian consent before honoring the student's self-reported gender identity, asserted name, and gender expression.
- D. Examining your own gendered language is essential to avoid misgendering students. Ask students and staff what pronouns they use; don't assume.
 - i. Staff members and students must use students' asserted pronouns.
 - ii. It is not permissible for someone to continue to use the wrong pronoun once they have been made aware of the student's pronouns.
 - iii. Refusal to use a student's pronouns may result in disciplinary action.
- E. PPS can provide education and/or resources to a student, their caregiver/guardian, other supportive adults, and PPS staff on ways to affirm students' identities and create affirming spaces.
 - i. At a minimum, school counselors, social workers, school psychologists, and front office personnel must have the [Gender Identity Support Guide](#) available where students and caregivers can freely access it. This guide currently contains: Meeting Request form, School Support Plan, Student Name/Gender Marker change form, and Athletic Support.
 - ii. Current resources are freely available on the PPS LGBTQ2SIA+ Supports [website](#).

V. Student Information System

- A. Portland Public Schools follows the Oregon Department of Education's processes for registration and records information regarding a transgender or nonbinary student's first name and gender marker. Furthermore, additional processes have been created as the Student Information System's capabilities expand to meet the needs of transgender, nonbinary, and gender expansive students.
- B. Caregivers may register their student(s) using their asserted name and gender marker.
 - i. Students do not need to have medical recognition or documentation to change their legal name field, preferred name field, or gender marker field in the SIS.
 - ii. Caregivers should contact their school's front office personnel for assistance with utilizing the Protected Information screen if they wish to utilize this screen in the SIS.
 - a. Only secretaries and school administrators have access to this screen.
 - b. It cannot be seen or changed by any other school personnel when they pull a student's information.
 - c. Only the asserted information will show when the student's information is pulled up using the SIS.

- C. Caregivers may also update a student's legal name field, gender marker, and/or preferred name field to reflect the asserted identity of their student(s) during the Yearly Verification process using ParentVue.
- D. A student may change their first name, gender marker, and/or the name in the "preferred name" field in the SIS by submitting the Name Change/Gender Marker Change form to the front office staff in their school.
 - i. Students may elect to submit this form with the assistance of a trusted adult or on their own. In addition, students may elect to utilize the Protected Information screen during this process.
 - ii. This form does not require a caregiver signature in keeping with ODE guidance.
 - a. Requested changes must be made within 24 hours of form submission.
 - b. The form is to be kept in a confidential file on-site.
 - c. Do not upload this form to the student's cumulative file or the SIS.
 - iii. The legal first name of the student will be replaced with the student's asserted name. The legal first name may be moved to the middle name field but is not required.
 - iv. A student and/or caregiver may elect to update their gender marker to any of the available options in the SIS that match or are the most closely aligned to the student's gender identity.
 - v. A student and/or caregiver may elect to enter an asserted name into the "preferred name" field instead of the legal first name field if they prefer.
- E. For students who have legally changed their name and/or gender marker in court, presentation of the court document(s) will automatically be registered by the school. In all instances of an update to the SIS, the student will retain the same SSID number.
- F. All reports, where possible, must use the preferred name field (marked "nickname" in the drop-down menu) when setting the parameters for the report to ensure all students are listed by their asserted name.
- G. Students may select a pronoun in the SIS
 - i. Limitations of the field require all staff to continue to ask students for their pronouns.
 - a. Many students use mixed pronouns (e.g. they/he, she/he/they, it/them) and neo/xeno pronouns which are not included in the dropdown list.
 - b. Staff may not use this technological limitation as an excuse for misgendering students. They will use all SIS capabilities available to them (seating chart, pronoun field, etc.), in addition to rapport building and regularly asking students for their pronouns, to ensure they are using the correct pronouns for students at all times.
 - ii. Limitations of the pronoun field also require all school staff to check with students before using any listed pronouns when calling home.
 - a. Some trans, nonbinary, and/or gender expansive students do not come

from affirming homes. Verifying pronouns before calling home will decrease the chance of outing a student before they are ready.

- H. When a student changes their name and/or pronouns in the SIS, student ID cards and all school media (e.g. yearbooks, school/class photos, school newspapers, etc.) should reflect the asserted name and, where applicable, asserted pronouns.

VI. Restrooms and Locker Rooms

- A. Portland Public Schools' [Restroom Equity Plan](#) guides the process for new builds and remodels to ensure transgender and gender expansive students have access to restrooms and locker rooms that align with their gender identity. All new builds will incorporate adequate gender-neutral restroom and locker room designs to meet the increasing needs of transgender, nonbinary, and gender expansive students of Portland Public Schools.
- B. Before plans for new builds are finalized, planning teams must consult with the RESJ Department and other PPS staff who can properly advocate for the needs of transgender, nonbinary, and gender expansive students. This can include but is not limited to Student Success and Health department staff, Health and Adapted Physical Education department staff, Title IX staff.
- C. With regards to restroom usage, the school has a duty to provide equal access to education, ensure student safety, and maximize social integration while minimizing stigmatization of the student.
- D. Students will have access to a restroom that corresponds to their gender identity and/or have access to an all-gender restroom without the need for prior approval.
 - i. Students have a right to confidentiality regarding their trans, nonbinary, and/or gender expansive identity. Requiring students to get approval for restroom use, regardless of restroom designation, would require a student to out themselves.
- E. Prohibiting a student from accessing the restroom that aligns with their gender identity is not allowed.
 - i. In the case of genderfluid students, they will be allowed to use gendered restroom spaces as their understanding of their identity fluctuates.
 - ii. Students in the process of socially transitioning may transition from the use of one gendered restroom to another at the speed they are comfortable with.
 - a. It is recommended, though not required, that students utilize the Gender Identity Support Guide's support plan to ensure they have what is needed to complete this transition from one space to another safely.
- F. If there is a need or desire for increased privacy and safety, regardless of the underlying purpose or cause, any student may be provided access to a reasonable alternative such as a single stall, all gender restroom.
 - i. The option of a single stall restroom should not be forced upon or presented as the **only** option to transgender, nonbinary or gender expansive students. These students must have the same access to safe restrooms as their peers.
 - ii. School communities should work to create a school culture that encourages binary students (those who identify as male and female) to use gendered restroom spaces as often as possible. This will ensure gender expansive

students have access to the limited number of single stall, all-gender restrooms in the buildings when needed.

- ii. Single stall, all-gender restrooms will be available off a hallway or corridor, without barriers to use such as time-limited

access, required keys, prior approval or long distances to travel.

G. Buildings may not lock the all-gender restrooms as a response to student behavior (e.g. drug use or sexual activity).

H. A student will not be required to use a locker room that is incongruent with the student's gender identity.

A. Any student who has a need or desire for increased privacy, regardless of the underlying reasons, should be provided with a reasonable alternative changing area such as the option to use a private area (e.g., a nearby restroom stall with a door, or an area separated by a curtain) or a separate changing schedule (e.g., using a locker room before or after other students).

B. Alternative changing spaces will be available without barriers to use such as time-limited access, required keys or long distances to travel.

I. The Oregon Physical Education standards can be met without requiring students to "dress down" for PE (e.g., change into a PE uniform).

J. Transgender and gender expansive students may elect to skip changing for PE if doing so alleviates any potential harm caused by being in a gendered space.

- i. Students may not be penalized (e.g., graded down, required to sit out, etc.) for not dressing down so long as they are wearing appropriate footwear and are actively engaged in the class.

VII. Athletics & School Activities Participation

A. Schools should follow the most current governing handbooks and toolkits available to ensure all transgender and gender expansive students have full and affirming access to the sports and activities of their choosing.

B. Staff supporting sports and activities under OSAA should review the OSAA Gender Diversity Toolkit and handbooks for their sport and/or activity.

C. Athletic Directors, coaches, and other school staff who support athletics and activities should participate in available PPS and/or OSAA trainings on increasing access to and creating affirming sports and activities spaces for gender expansive students.

D. Transgender, nonbinary, or gender expansive students participating in any sport or activity may request a meeting to complete the School Support Plan and Athletic Support Plan (found in the [Gender Identity Support Guide](#)) to ensure they have what they need to fully participate as their authentic selves.

VIII. Overnight School Trips

A. Students should be allowed use of an overnight facility that corresponds with their gender identity. Transgender, nonbinary and gender expansive students must be consulted early on in the planning process to address any questions or concerns the student may have, including any needs for privacy in terms of dressing, showering, etc. The caregiver/guardian should be consulted as well, unless there are concerns

for student safety in doing so.

- B. Best practice is to make available a gender-inclusive accommodation that is presented as an option for any student who feels more comfortable with that option.
 - i. Schools should work with the student, family, principal's supervisor,
 - ii. and, as necessary, the General Counsel's Office in devising a plan based on the particular circumstances of the trip.
 - iii. In no case should a transgender, nonbinary, or gender expansive student be denied the right to participate in an overnight field trip because of the student's transgender, nonbinary, or gender expansive status.

IX. Dress Code

Students have the right to dress in accordance with their gender identity. School staff will affirm a student's right to dress in accordance with their gender identity.

X. Student Safety

- A. Transgender and nonbinary students are often targeted with physical violence and experience a hostile school environment at a higher rate than their peers. Title IX of the Education Amendments Act prohibits discrimination and harassment based on sex, including all forms of sexual harassment, sexual assault and discrimination based on LGBTQ2SIA+ status. Additionally, Oregon law and Portland Public Schools prohibit harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyberbullying. See 4.30.062-AD (Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying and Cyberbullying Procedures and Prevention); 4.30.063-AD (Title IX Sex-Based Discrimination and Harassment).
- B. Students who bully, harass, or otherwise discriminate against other students based on any protected status may be subject to school discipline in accordance with PPS discipline policies, administrative directives, and the Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Discipline Handbook.
- C. Students, caregivers, and/or PPS employees should report any incidents of bullying, harassment, or discrimination to their principal or building Title IX Coordinator.
- D. Students or caregivers may file a Title IX complaint using the online complaint form or by speaking with the building-based Title IX Coordinator. The complaint form and additional Title IX information can be found on the [Title IX website](#).

XI. Curriculum And Instruction

- A. The Office of Teaching and Learning will be proactive in decreasing anti-LGBTQ language, feelings, behaviors, and bullying by:
 - i. Promoting positive images of LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals;
 - ii. Making available age-appropriate LGBTQ2SIA+ inclusive instructional materials and books for elementary and secondary schools;
 - iii. Requiring that newly-adopted and recommended instructional materials include significant events, societal contributions, and/or representations of LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals;
 - iv. Offering LGBTQ2SIA+ awareness training for staff, community-based partners, and volunteers; and

- v. Reminding staff of their duty to ensure that all students are safe and affirmed in our school communities, and to create a school culture that both prevents and proactively intervenes with acts of name-calling (such as racist, sexist, transphobic, and homophobic remarks), bias, harassment, or bullying that they observe, including, but not limited to LGBTQ2SIA+ biased language and bullying.
- B. The RESJ Department will provide skill building opportunities in Leadership/Teaching Institutes at August in-service

XII. Training and Professional Development

In order to ensure that transgender, nonbinary and gender expansive students are included in all school activities and allowed to participate in the full school community, annual professional development specific to the needs and rights of transgender, nonbinary and gender expansive students will be offered to PPS staff. The content of training and professional development will include but not be limited to:

- A. Terms, concepts, and current developmental understandings of gender identity, gender expression, and gender diversity in children and adolescents;
- B. Developmentally appropriate strategies for communication with students and caregivers about issues related to gender identity and gender expression;
- C. Developmentally appropriate strategies for preventing and intervening in bullying incidents, including cyberbullying;
- D. Classroom management practices, curriculum, and resources that educators can integrate into their classrooms to help foster a more gender-inclusive environment for all students;
- E. List of examples of things people need to know to do/not do, including:
 - i. Pulling a student to the side to ask vs. asking in front of class;
 - ii. How to apologize and move on when a staff member misgenders or deadnames a student; and
 - iii. How to repair harms experienced by LGBTQ2SIA+ students caused by a staff member's ignorance or lack of allyship.
- F. Create and support an informal mechanism for students to comment on the building culture to decrease the harm experienced by LGBTQ2SIA+ students as a result of lack of knowledge or others' personal beliefs.

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