



Our Students. Their Moment.

New York State Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students Guidance Document

July 20, 2015

**New York State Board of Regents
Committee on P-12 Education**

Overview and Purpose

- To complement existing comprehensive resources made available by the Department relating to the implementation of the Dignity for All Students Act; and
- To assist school districts to continue to foster an educational environment that is safe and free from discrimination for all students, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;

DASA Website: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/>

DASA Promising Practices:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/resourceguide.html>

Recap from April's Board of Regents Meeting

- More than 50% of transgender youth will have had at least one suicide attempt by their 20th birthday.
- Nearly 75% of transgender students have been verbally assaulted in schools because of how they express their gender.
- Only 1/3 of transgender students feel as though school administration reacted adequately and effectively.

Suicide Attempts among Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Adults; The Williams Institute (January 2014)
<http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/AFSP-Williams-Suicide-Report-Final.pdf>

The 2013 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Our Nation's Schools, GLSEN (2014)
http://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2013%20National%20School%20Climate%20Survey%20Full%20Report_0.pdf

Overview of Guidance Document

- **Introduction**
- **Definitions**
- **Understanding School Climate and Transgender Students**
- **Understanding Gender Identity**
- **Gender Transition**
- **Common Areas of Concern Relating to Transgender Students**
 - **Names and Pronouns**
 - **Privacy, Confidentiality, and Student Records**
 - **Gender-Based Activities, Rules, Policies, and Practices**
- **Resources, Education, and Training for School Districts and Communities**

NYSED's Actions and Steps

- **Fall 2014 – Winter 2015: Began meeting with advocates and drafting the Guidance Document**
- **April 2015: Draft Guidance Document presented to the Board of Regents**
- **May 2015: Met again with advocates to discuss outstanding issues Guidance Document**
- **June-July 2015: Finalized Guidance Document with input from advocates and stakeholder groups**
- **July 2015: Present final Guidance Document to the Board of Regents and release to the field**
- **Fall 2015: Department provides outreach to school communities in partnership with key stakeholder groups**

Advocacy Groups

- **New York Civil Liberties Union**
- **Empire Justice Center**
- **Empire State Pride Agenda**
- **Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network**
- **Lambda Legal**
- **New York Legal Assistance Group**
- **Advocates For Children of New York**
- **National Center for Lesbian Rights**
- **Urban Justice Center**
- **Hetrick Martin Institute**
- **Cornell Law School LGBT Community Clinic**
- **Day One**

Other Key Stakeholder Groups

- **NYS Council on School Superintendents (NYSCOSS)**
- **NYS United Teachers (NYSUT)**
- **School Administrators Association of NYS (SAANYS)**
- **NYS School Boards Association (NYSSBA)**
- **NYS Parent Teacher Association (NYSPTA)**