

Our Students. Their Moment.

New York State Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students Guidance Document

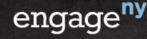
July 20, 2015 New York State Board of Regents Committee on P-12 Education



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: <u>http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/</u> DASA Promising Practices: <u>http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/resourceguide.html</u>

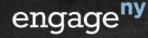


Recap from April's Board of Regents Meeting

- 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
 - **o** 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)

