

Please Note This guidance has been replaced with an [updated version](#) as of January 2023



Oregon Department of Education

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**Guidance to School Districts
Creating a Safe and Supportive School Environment for
Transgender Students
Issued May 5, 2016**

Gender role

Gender sensitive

Genderqueer

Intersex

Sexual orientation

Transgender

Transgender female

Transgender male

Transition

Transsexual

transgender

Student Identity

EXAMPLE: The parents of a pre-school-age child who was assigned "female" at birth noted throughout the child's early years that their child identified as a boy. For as long as the parents could remember, the child preferred to play with boys rather than girls, wanted a short haircut, rejected wearing any clothing that the child identified as "something a girl would wear," and ignored anyone who called him by his stereotypically feminine name. When it was time for the child to enter kindergarten, the child said to his parents, "You have to tell them when I go to kindergarten that I'm a boy." The school district enrolled the child as a boy."

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Names and Pronouns

Example: A transgender girl was transferring to a new high school. She asked the principal to inform her teachers that even though her school records indicate that her name is John, she goes by the name Jane and uses female pronouns. With permission from Jane, the school principal sent the following memorandum to the student's classroom teachers: "The student John Smith wishes to be referred to by the name Jane Smith, a name that is consistent with the student's female gender identity. Please be certain to use the student's preferred name and female pronouns in all contexts. It is my expectation that students will similarly refer to the student by her appropriate name and pronouns. Your role modeling will help make a smooth transition for all concerned. Continued, repeated, and intentional misuse of names and pronouns may erode the educational environment for Jane. If you need any assistance to make sure that Jane Smith experiences a safe, non-discriminatory classroom atmosphere, please contact me." In addition to the memorandum, school staff was provided with training about supports for transgender students as well as procedures for sexual harassment and bullying.

Management of Student Identity in School Documents and Records

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Instruction and Student Support (Comprehensive Sexuality Education)

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Student Safety

EXAMPLE: During public testimony at a school board meeting a member of the public used the name of a student who is a transgender student and indicated they knew the grade level and school of the student. The person threatened bodily harm against the student if the student continued to attend school. The school district superintendent who was in attendance at the public meeting reported the information to local law enforcement and worked with local law enforcement and the student's parents to ensure the student's safety including not allowing the person access to school grounds

Resources

Gender Identity Development

Questions or comments concerning these guidelines can be addressed to:
