



Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students' Rights

What is gender identity?

Gender identity means a person's internal feelings of being a man, woman, both, or neither.

Everyone has a gender identity. Your gender identity may or may not match with the sex listed on your birth certificate. Your gender identity may or may not be visible to other people.

Students who consider themselves to be transgender and/or gender non-conforming are also protected under Minnesota law.

Your Right to Education

Every student in Minnesota has the right to an education. Your gender identity does not make that right any different or less.

All students have the right to go to school in a safe and supporting environment.

Can I be forced to use a bathroom or locker-room that goes against my gender identity?

NO! Under Minnesota law, you can use bathrooms and locker-rooms in line with your gender identity. Making a transgender student use a different bathroom or locker-room because of their gender identity is discrimination and is not allowed.

Can I be denied the right to play on a sports team because of my gender identity?

NO! The Minnesota State High School League states that all students can take part in sports that are in line with their gender identity or expression. Making a transgender or gender nonconforming student play on a team that goes against their gender identity is not allowed.



Can I be discriminated against or bullied because of my gender identity?

NO! All Minnesota students are protected against harassment, discrimination, and bullying.

There are laws that protect all students from harassment, discrimination, and bullying based on sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

[The Minnesota Human Rights Act](#)

[The Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act](#)

[Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#)

Who should I talk to or contact if I'm being discriminated against, harassed, or bullied?

Try talking to your teacher, principal, or other trusted adult.

You can also talk to:

- Your school district's Title IX Coordinator
- [Minnesota Department of Human Rights](#)
Phone: [\(651\) 539-1121](#)
- Title IX - U.S. Dept. of Education regional office:
Phone: [\(312\) 730-1560](#)
Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov



Developed in collaboration with the SMRLS' Education Law Advocacy Project (ELAP).

Fact Sheets are legal information NOT legal advice. See a lawyer for advice.

Don't use this fact sheet if it is more than 1 year old. Ask us for updates, a fact sheet list, or alternate formats.

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