

Supporting LGBTQ2SIA+ Students in Oregon

The [LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Success Plan](#), adopted by the Oregon State Board of Education, recommends that schools co-develop an articulated LGBTQ2SIA+ student Bill of Rights intended to clearly communicate standards for inclusion based on race, ethnicity, language, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity, in partnership with student representatives that reflect the diversity of local school communities.¹ This document was developed as a resource to accompany Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) [Supporting Gender Expansive Students: Guidance for Schools](#) released in 2023. Districts and schools may use this document as a starting place to engage students, families, and staff to ensure they are aware of the supportive options they can request within Oregon public schools, specific to gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or another protected class identity.

These supportive options are suggestions for districts to consider and were developed with consideration of requirements of schools and districts receiving state or federal funds, the legal rights of students, and the guidance ODE provides to school districts. For more information, please review the [corresponding guidance section](#).

The information within the following resource document is not legal advice, nor should it be relied on as legal advice. If you require legal advice regarding the issues discussed in this document, please consult an attorney.

As an LGBTQ2SIA+ student, you are able to...

Feel safe and welcome in school. If you are experiencing discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, you have the ability to report it to a trusted adult at your school. Your school should take action to stop the harassment and provide you support.

Be called by the name and pronouns that match who you are in every aspect of the school day. Sometimes people make an honest mistake, but teachers and school staff should not deadname you (call you by the wrong name) or misgender you (use the wrong pronouns or gender) on purpose after you ask for your asserted name and pronouns to be used.

Express who you are and what you believe. You have the ability to express your identity through speech and clothes and to speak about your beliefs. This includes how you dress at school every day as well as for dances, graduation, and other school events. Your school should not single out or make different rules for students based on their gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Report harassment or bullying. It can be helpful to take notes of any incident of harassment and ask a trusted adult or community organization if you need help with reporting. Your school should take action to stop the harassment and provide you support.

Choose if, when, and how to come out. You have the option to be out and proud, when and how you choose. You also have the option to keep your gender identity and sexual orientation private. Parents and guardians may have the ability to see school records, but your school should not out you to anyone if you tell them not to.²

¹ Domain 2, Objective 1, Strategy 4, Action 4b, [LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Success Plan](#), Oregon Department of Education, June 2020

² Please note, the term outing is defined in the [Terminology Appendix](#) within the guidance.

Change your name in school records and technology. You have the ability to change your first name in your school record and student information system, without legal documentation.

Change your sex/gender marker in school records and technology. You have the ability to change your sex/gender marker in your school record and student information system, without legal documentation. Schools are required to offer Nonbinary (X), Female (F), and Male (M) options for all students and staff.

Use safe and affirming restrooms and locker rooms. You have the ability to use school restrooms and changing rooms that align with your gender identity or safety needs. If you feel safer or more comfortable using a private space, or if you'd like to use a separate space for a short period of time, you can request that—but your school should not force or pressure you into using a separate restroom or locker room if you don't want to.

Learn inclusive and affirming information. Instructional materials (e.g., books, textbooks, and lesson plans) and practices (e.g., the language or activities your teacher uses) should be inclusive and affirming of LGBTQ2SIA+ people. You have the ability to attend your school district's school board meetings when votes on instructional materials are being considered and make your voice heard.

Participate in sports, P.E., and school activities according to your gender identity. If you're not a boy or a girl and there are only boys' and girls' options, you can request which option is most safe and affirming for you.

Date who you want, if you want. You have the ability to date who you want, if you want, regardless of gender, and go with your date to school events. If you are following otherwise legal school rules, your school should not treat you differently than other couples because you're LGBTQ2SIA+.

Form a student group. You have the ability to form a GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) or another type of LGBTQ2SIA+ student-focused club and to have it be recognized the same as any other groups recognized by your school. Your school should not create special policies or practices that apply to GSAs but not other clubs.

Seek gender-affirming healthcare. If you are 15 or older, you have the ability to seek gender-affirming healthcare from an Oregon medical provider. If you are younger than 15, your parent or guardian has the ability to request it for you.

Seek mental health services. If you are 14 or older, you have the ability to seek mental health services for yourself.³

Seek reproductive health information and services. You have the ability at any age to access birth-control related information and services, including testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) by yourself.⁴

Have you felt unsupported within your school community due to identity-based harassment or discrimination? Are you unable to access the supports listed above?

If you experience any problems at school, first talk to your principal or another trusted adult at school. If nothing happens, [reach out to ODE](#) to get additional help or file an appeal.

³ [ORS 109.675](#)

⁴ [ORS 109.610](#); [ORS 109.640](#)