



LGBTQ+ Rights and Gender Inclusion

Minnesota students have the right to be safe and to be themselves at school. They deserve respectful and inclusive learning environments that value their gender identity and gender expression. The ACLU-MN supports legislation to ensure students who are transgender and gender nonconforming are treated with dignity and have the full educational experience every child deserves.

THE PROBLEM

Public schools are legally required to protect all students from harassment. Yet schools have denied transgender and gender-nonconforming students access to bathrooms, locker rooms, and sports and other extracurricular activities that match their identities. Staff have refused to use students' preferred names and pronouns.

This singles out trans and gender-nonconforming students and leads to bullying and stigmatization, which harms kids. In Minnesota, the Trevor Project's 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health found that:

- 52% of trans and nonbinary students considered suicide in the previous year
- 37% were physically harmed or threatened
- 73% have experienced discrimination
- 75% experienced anxiety

THE SOLUTION

Pass legislation that requires schools to provide trans and gender-nonconforming students with a safe and inclusive education that includes:

- The right to access bathrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity
- The right to participate in sports and other school activities in accordance with their identity
- The right to have school staff use their preferred names and pronouns
- No outing of students to parents.