

Navigating the Transgender Landscape

SCHOOL RESOURCE GUIDE

- **The Transgender Trend.** A complex cultural phenomenon is sweeping through schools throughout the country. Children are declaring that they no longer identify as their own sex, but as the opposite sex, a new made-up “gender,” or no sex at all, creating serious challenges for K-12 schools.
 - Trans-identifying students may demand that they be addressed by new names and pronouns and treated as the opposite sex.
 - Students may demand access to opposite-sex privacy facilities (i.e., restrooms, locker rooms, and showers) and to compete on the sports teams of the opposite sex. Such demands have significant repercussions for all students and for girls in particular.

- **Existing Resources.** Until now, the only resources addressed to educators have been supplied by transgender advocacy groups. These materials instruct schools to unconditionally affirm students’ self-declared gender identities without regard for the rights of other students – or to the *harmful effects on the trans-identifying students* themselves.
 - These ideologically driven materials omit important scientifically accurate information and that affirmation often involves serious mental health and medical decisions with life-long consequences for children’s development and fertility.
 - These materials often encourage administrators to *disregard parental rights* and even bypass parents entirely when affirming a child’s gender identity in public schools.

- **This new national School Resource Guide is designed to fill the information gap.** It gives school boards, administrators, teachers, and counselors sound data, science, research, and resources (backed by numerous citations) to develop sound policies to respond effectively and compassionately to the transgender issue in our schools.

- **Science-based.** This Guide is based on the biological understanding that a child’s sex is not arbitrarily “assigned at birth”, but is rather an innate and immutable human characteristic directing their healthy physical development throughout life, and should thus be presented as a gift to be embraced, celebrated, and protected.

- **Guiding principles.** This guidance is based on the principles of: 1) Respecting parental rights to direct the education and well-being of their children; 2) Recognizing healthy child and adolescent development; 3) Protecting the rights, safety, privacy, and diverse beliefs of the *entire* student body; and 4) Maintaining the trust of the community.

- **Content Overview.** The Guide provides the following key information:
 - Explains factors influencing children to identify as transgender and the scientific information on the effects of “*gender affirmative*” *medical interventions*.
 - Provides answers to the most frequently raised concerns (such as the health risks, suicide risk, transgender regret, the medical community, and parental concerns).
 - Gives an overview of how the transgender trend is affecting public schools and trans-activism in schools, demands for access to opposite-sex privacy facilities, equity in sports, and how Title IX and state sunshine laws affect policy making.

- **Recommendations.** This Guide offers specific policy recommendations that offer appropriate responses to trans-identifying students, while respecting the rights of all students. It also offers recommendations for effective communication with parents and the community, a Glossary of Terms, answers to Frequently Asked Questions, and a sample privacy facilities policy.