



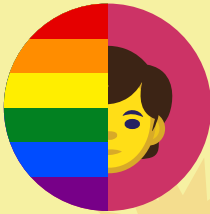
# Health & Wellness of LGBTQA+ Youth in School Settings

## The SAFETY Act — Newly Passed!

July 2024

The Support Academic Futures & Educators for Today's Youth (SAFETY) Act prohibits school boards from requiring the forced outing of LGBTQA+ youth in school settings

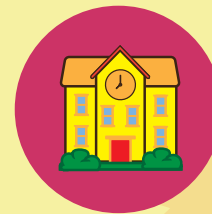
### Critical protections include



protecting LGBTQA+ youth against forced outing policies



providing supportive resources for parents/caregivers



safeguards for teachers against retaliation for fostering supportive environments for LGBTQA+ youth

## Existing Legal Protections

While state & local governments have escalated efforts to challenge the health and wellness of LGBTQA+ youth nationwide, California has been a national leader in passing LGBTQA+ protective legislation

Laws include **anti-bullying protections**, education that is **inclusive** of LGBTQA+ people, **comprehensive sexual health education**, a **student's right to participate** in sex-segregated school activities (e.g., sports) and **access to facilities** (e.g. restrooms and locker rooms) consistent with their gender identity regardless of the gender listed on official records, and guaranteeing access to **gender-neutral restrooms**.



**2010** *Seth's Law*

**2011** *Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful Education (FAIR) Act*

**2013** *School Success and Opportunity Act (SSOA)*

**2016** *California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA)*

**2016** *Equal Restroom Access Act (ERAA)*

**2023** *Senate Bill 760 (Newman)*

### Scan here

for more information on Dr. Rory O'Brien's research on LGBTQA+ youth



### Scan here

for more information on the SAFETY Act and other laws mentioned here

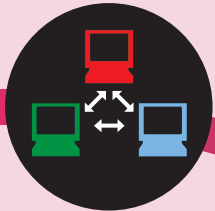


# Understanding Policy Gaps

A recent study with 10 participating schools located across 5 different school districts in Los Angeles County has shown that administrators at the state, district, and school levels are tasked with translating policy into practice. They engage in discrete professional decision-making processes leading to differences in interpretation and implementation of these seminal laws. The passage of such legislation is significant in the history of transgender and non-binary adolescent (TNBA) rights, yet the issue of ineffective implementation remains. These "4 Zones" build upon existing laws.

## Research Findings

## Policy Recommendations



### Student Records

- ❑ lack of streamlined school data systems (name changes reflected in all school databases)
- ❑ non-implementation of district policies by schools
- ❑ inconsistent requirements for parental notification/permission

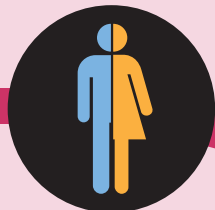
- ❑ ensure data systems can be updated
- ❑ systematic changes to names across systems (e.g., Aries, Canvas, Google Classroom)



### Private Accommodations

- ❑ no designated private spaces for students to change for gym
- ❑ private accommodations located within gendered locker spaces
- ❑ lack of student awareness of private facilities

- ❑ ensure private spaces are available and students know processes for how to request them (and not locate them in gendered spaces)
- ❑ publish availability of private spaces in student handbooks



### Gender Neutral Restrooms

- ❑ gender neutral restroom locations not identified for students
- ❑ ID or staff permission required to gain access and other barriers to access (e.g. forced outing to school staff)

- ❑ school should prepare for implementation of S.B. 760, requiring facilities to be as accessible as gendered facilities
- ❑ publish availability of gender neutral restrooms in student handbooks
- ❑ state may seek to monitor for compliance



### Comprehensive Sex Ed

- ❑ inconsistent instruction regarding comprehensive sexual health education
- ❑ documentation of health content and course offerings
- ❑ non-implementation of district-approved curriculum by schools

- ❑ new bills should strengthen and specify requirements of CHYA
- ❑ need monitoring and data



CALIFORNIA  
HIV/AIDS POLICY  
RESEARCH CENTERS

