

Transgender Practices & FAQ:

The Shawnee Mission School District is committed to (1) fostering an educational environment that is safe, welcoming, and free from stigma and discrimination for all students, regardless of gender identity or expression; (2) facilitating compliance with local, state and federal laws concerning bullying, harassment, discrimination, and privacy; and (3) ensuring that all students have the opportunity to express themselves and live authentically. All of our students, including transgender and non-binary students, must feel safe and supported in schools and have equal access to education and educational facilities.

Like everything we do, developing and maintaining a strong relationship with the student and their family will be key to any plan's implementation and success. Please be sure your Counselors, Social Workers and School Nurse are part of the conversation as well. **Note:** This document will be updated throughout the year.

Q: What is the current transgender policy in SMSD?

- A. The SMSD Board of Education has not adopted a transgender-specific policy. The current practice in SMSD is for administration to evaluate requests for accommodations on a case-by-case basis, and to develop an individual plan for each student. In the same way that every student is different, every request should be treated in its own unique way.

Board of Education Policy AC, the District's non-discrimination/non-harassment policy, strictly prohibits any form of discrimination or harassment toward students, staff, or visitors based on a protected classification, including gender identity. Policy AC confirms the District's commitment to comply with Title IX, which prohibits discrimination based on gender identity.

Q. Can we change a student's name in Skyward?

- A. At this time a student can only change the birth name listed in Skyward if they complete a legal name change. The "nickname" field can be used upon request.
- B. Teachers can print a roster of students' by their preferred names by following [this video](#) and/or the steps below:
- a. Step-by-Step Instructions:
 - In My Gradebook, go to:
 - Display Options
 - Student Display
 - Make sure this box is checked: Display the Student's Other Name (When Available) Instead of the First Name and Middle Initial
 - Save
 - Now, to print reports/ rosters:
 - **Note:** the **Class Roster** Report WILL print out preferred names, so this is the ideal one to include in your emergency sub folders.
 - Add a new template: Preferred Name Roster, then choose the info you want to have printed out. Make sure you check **Other Name if not blank**.
 - Save, then Print. This is the roster that you should include with your sub plans (regular sub plans and emergency sub plans)

Q. Can we call a student by their preferred name and/or pronouns?

- A. Yes. All students have the right to be addressed by the name and pronouns that correspond to the gender identity they assert at school. School staff and peers are expected to respect a student's name and pronouns once they have been made aware. The building principal, in consultation first with the student, will be responsible for ensuring that the student's request is honored while working to engage and include the family to the greatest extent possible for support.
- B. **Note:** To ensure building administration are aware of and can adequately support the student's request, school staff should notify the principal of any gender-specific name and/or pronoun change requests. This will ensure the student's request is implemented with fidelity and enable the principal to provide additional support to the student and staff member as needed.

Q. Can teachers issue a survey or poll to students requesting information about students' preferred pronouns or preferred names?

- C. No, SMSD does not support this practice. Staff members should not, using a survey, poll, or similar device, solicit (request or ask) students to share their pronouns or preferred names. As outlined below, the District has a specific process for transgender students and their families to request and cooperatively develop an individualized plan appropriate for their student, and this process should be used rather than soliciting preferred pronoun/name information from students in a group setting. The process that SMSD has developed ensures respect for the privacy of our transgender students and allows the sharing of this important, personal information in an environment of the student's choosing.

Flowchart for gender-specific name/pronoun change requests:

- Teacher/Staff member becomes aware of a student's gender-specific request to change name and/or pronouns
- Teacher reassures the student that the request will be honored and supported.
 - Thank you for letting me know.
 - Is there anything you need right now?
- Teacher informs the student that they, the teacher, will need to let the building principal know so he/she can ensure the request is supported building-wide. Teacher can also let the student know that the principal will schedule a meeting with the student ASAP.
- Principal meets with the student to share support and gauge the level of family involvement. If the request is going to be formalized, a Preferred Name and Gender form will be completed. A Transition Management Plan can also be initiated at this time with family engagement for support.

Q. Can a student use the restroom consistent with the gender identity asserted at school?

- A. Yes. Transgender and gender expansive students must be provided access to facilities (restrooms, locker rooms, or changing rooms) consistent with their gender identity asserted at school. A transgender or gender expansive student may not be required to use a single-gender facility or a facility that conflicts with the student's gender identity asserted at school. However, schools must provide reasonable alternative arrangements for any student who expresses a need or desire for increased privacy. Reasonable alternative arrangements may include a single occupancy restroom, use of a private area, or a separate changing schedule.
- B. **Note:** Alternative arrangements must be made available to students who request them, but must never be forced upon students, nor presented as the only option. Furthermore, any arrangements must be provided in a non-stigmatizing manner that protects student privacy and is not marginalizing or disruptive for the student.

Q. Can we change a student's name in Google?

- A. Yes. A student can change their name in the Google platform to their student ID number. This can be done after building Admin have discussed the matter with the student and his/her family and have signed parent/guardian written consent. The request should be emailed to Dr. McKinney and a Web Help Desk ticket will be submitted.

Q. Can we identify a student by their preferred name in the school yearbook, newspaper, etc.

- A. Yes. This process can be initiated and documented via the Preferred Name Consent Form. Parent/Guardian involvement and written consent is required.

Q. Can we change the student's gender marker in Skyward?

- A. Because this change may affect current and future course offerings, students/families should contact building administration to discuss options and implications.

Q. Can we change a student's name in Canvas?

- A. Yes. Students can change their name in Canvas under Settings under "Display Name."

Q. Can a student's name in the E-Hall Pass system be changed?

- A. Yes. Administration can change the name in the e-hall pass system upon request.

Q. Can we change a student's name in WebEx?

- A. Yes. As long as they use their studentnumber@smsd.org to create the account, students can edit their display name @ smsd.webex.com

Q. How do schools address field trips that require an overnight stay?

- A. This should be a discussion with the student and their family, with an individualized solution. Present the transgender student and their family with a range of options, including their own private room or work with them on selecting a roommate of their choice. In cases where a transgender student selects a roommate of their gender identity, it is appropriate, with the student's consent, appropriate for the principal to have a conversation with the roommate's parents informing them of the request.

Guidelines for Student Diplomas & Transcripts:

1. Is the diploma a legal document?
 - The diploma is not a legal document and a student's legal name does not have to appear on the diploma.
2. Is changing the name on a diploma a parent decision?
 - Students who are 18 or older have FERPA rights and can make the decision about what name appears on their diploma. Ideally, any changes will be agreed on by both parents/guardians and students. In the event of a dispute between a parent and student that cannot be resolved, the student's request will be honored a) where the student is 18 and/or b) where the student identifies as transgender.
3. Is the transcript a legal document?
 - Yes, the student's transcript is a legal document and must reflect the student's legal/birth name.

Resources:

- [Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 \(20 U.S.C. § 1861, et seq.\)](#)
- [“Enforcement of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 with Respect to Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientational and Gender Identity,”](#) June 22, 2021
- [Fact Sheet – U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, and U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, “Confronting Anti-LGBTQ+ Harassment in Schools,”](#) June 2021
- [Fact Sheet – U.S. Department of Education – “Supporting Transgender Youth in School,”](#) June 2021
- [Fact Sheet – U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, “Supporting Intersex Students,”](#) October 2021
- [U.S. Dept. of Education Resources for LGBTQIA+ Students](#)
- Board of Education Policy AC