

Parent / Student Advocate Tip Sheet



First step as an advocate: **STAY CALM!** Explain that your role is to help inform all parties on what the facts are about Transgender issues.

Second step as an advocate: Ask both the school representative (teacher or administrator) and the parents what their concerns are. It is helpful for both parties to share their concerns. Discuss the concerns of the parents prior to meeting with the school so you have an understanding of the parent/student's point of view.

Be able to explain that transgender:

- is not about sex, or sexual orientation
- is about gender, and gender roles
- is not a choice
- has been expressed as long as there has been humans
 - Native American "Two Spirit" history
 - Roman Emperor story
- Is not done as a "whim" but with careful consideration, and is a lifelong issue
- Minors must comply with clinical and legal boundaries that means that surgery is not possible until 18
- access to a bathroom is not of sexual gratification, it is about waste elimination

Requiring a transgender student to use a separate bathroom is "segregation" and inappropriate.

"Segregation" is a key word to use in discussing the bathroom issues.

There are mental and physical ramifications of isolation of being segregated from the bathrooms.

Segregation is in violation of the WCSD Bullying and Harassment Policy (LEG-P121)

The WCSD Bullying and Harassment Policy (LEG-P121) includes protection for students under "gender identity" and "gender expression."

Federal Title IX law protects transgender students under Gender Discrimination

Violation of WCSD policy and Federal Law can have repercussions.

Most important: Try to create an ally! Offer to educate and inform, to help the administrator/teacher, in order for them to provide a safe school environment as mandated in policy and law!