

## **Lexington Public Schools**

### **Guidance for Registering Transgender or Gender Expansive Students**

The Lexington Public School District believes that all students deserve an environment that feels safe and supportive. Students who are transgender or gender expansive often choose to change the name and gender marker assigned to them at birth to those that match their gender identity. Massachusetts' law recognizes common law name changes and gender identity, as does the Lexington Public Schools.

An individual may adopt a name that is different from the name that appears on his or her birth certificate, provided that the change of name is done for an honest reason with no fraudulent intent. Nothing more formal than usage is required. Hence, when registering a student in Lexington Public Schools, our school district will honor the use of a student's chosen name and will accurately record the student's chosen name on all records, with or without a court order that legalizes a name change.

Please be aware our LPS Registration Form asks for the legal name of the student, and provides an option for a preferred name. Research and best practices suggest that listing a preferred name is not ideal for transgender and gender expansive students. Instead, we recommend that students use their chosen name in the legal name field, so that it will appear on school documents such as class rosters, attendance records, and transcripts. As you complete our registration forms, we encourage you to enter the name your student wants to be referred by in the "legal name" field.

A gender marker is the designation on school and other records that indicates a student's gender. For most students, records that include an indication of a student's gender will reflect a student's assigned birth sex ("male" or "female"). For transgender and gender-expansive students, please indicate the gender marker that reflects your student's current gender identity, not their assigned sex. Recognized gender markers are male, female, and non-binary.

#### **Please Note:**

A student's name and gender marker can be changed upon request at any time. Changes to name and gender marker will not impact a student's post-secondary application process.

## **HELPFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES**

**[Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students](#)** Guidance for Massachusetts Public Schools - Creating a Safe and Supportive School Environment - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity

**[Gender Spectrum](#)** helps to create gender sensitive and inclusive environments for all children and teens.

**[GLAD: GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders](#)** works in New England and nationally to create a just society free of discrimination based on gender identity and expression, HIV status and sexual orientation.

**[GLSEN Massachusetts: Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network of Massachusetts](#)** is working to ensure that every member of every school community is valued.

**[Greater Boston PFLAG](#)**: Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays are a group of parents, families, friends, and LGBTQ lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. They are committed to helping change attitudes and create an environment of understanding so that their gay family members and friends can live in a world that is safe and inclusive.

**[MA Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students](#)** The Safe Schools Program for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students is a joint initiative between the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth.

**[Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth](#)** was established by law as an independent agency of the Commonwealth to recommend and advocate to all branches of state government effective policies, programs, and resources for LGBTQ youth to thrive.

**[MassEquality](#)** is an advocacy organization working to ensure that everyone across Massachusetts can thrive without discrimination and oppression based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

July 11, 2017

