

# Supporting our LGBTQ students, staff and families

Alberta Education recently created guidelines to help school districts support and protect LGBTQ students, staff and families. Edmonton Public Schools has had a policy in place since 2011, so very little will change about the day-to-day activity in our schools.



## PRIVACY and CONFIDENTIALITY

**If a student tells us about their sexual orientation or gender identity, but isn't ready to tell anyone else, we must respect their privacy until they're ready to share.**

Our goal in these situations is to help students feel safe and supported. We encourage students to talk to their parents and work to bridge that conversation by giving students the support they need.



## WASHROOMS and CHANGE ROOMS

**All students can use a washroom that meets their needs for privacy and comfort.**

Students may ask to use a different washroom or change room for a number of reasons, including medical, religious, cultural and gender identity. There are many ways we can meet their needs, depending on the situation and what kind of washrooms are in the building.



## NAMES

**Using a student's preferred name is an important part of helping them feel respected and supported.**

The same is true of words like she/her, he/him or they/their. When a student wants to change their name or what they're called at school, we talk about it with them and their family.



## OVERNIGHT TRIPS

**We make decisions about sleeping arrangements for transgender or gender-diverse students on overnight trips carefully, together with the student and their family.**

Because sleep spaces can vary a lot, depending on the location of the trip, there is no one-size-fits-all solution.



## PHYS ED and SPORTS TEAMS

**Students may participate in school sports based on the gender they identify as.**

The Alberta Schools' Athletic Association's 2015-2016 Policy Handbook supports this.

## MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about how our Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity policy works in your child's school, please talk to your principal or visit [bit.ly/SOGI\\_epsb](http://bit.ly/SOGI_epsb).