

# STUDENT GENDER IDENTITY / PARENTAL NOTIFICATION AND CONSENT

## *Model School Board Policy*

Parents have the right to determine the names and pronouns that staff use to refer to their children while at school. Staff shall not refer to or address minor students by a different name or pronouns that differ from their biological sex, during school hours, without written authorization from a parent. The document authorizing the change of name and/or pronoun shall be kept on file in the administrative offices. This policy does not require parental consent for shortened versions of the legal name of a student.

The District shall not diagnose or treat gender dysphoria. The Board acknowledges that District personnel are not experts in diagnosing or treating gender dysphoria or related mental health conditions. Parents have the right to determine whether to seek professional and medical support for their child.

If District personnel have reason to believe that a student is seeking to transition or has begun to socially transition to a gender that differs from his or her biological sex, personnel may, but are not required to, inform parents.

For purposes of this policy, the term "parent" includes a legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis (such as grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child).

### *Legal Analysis*

The Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution recognizes the “inherent right” of parents to “direct the upbringing and education of children under their control.” *See Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510, 534–35 (1925).

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