

Supporting Transgender Students in Your Classroom

November 16th, 2021 TREC Webinar Resources Handout

General Information

'**Transgender**' (adj.) is an umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. People under the transgender umbrella may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms - including transgender. To learn more about the differences between gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, [GLSEN's Safe Space Kit](#) provides educator-specific information in English and Spanish, while many organizations produce similar [guides for affirming vocabulary](#).

Pronouns are the words you may like others to use for you in place of your proper name. Some examples include “she/her” or “he/him” or gender-neutral pronouns, such as “ze/hir,” [pronounced: zee/heer] or “they/them”. Some people use specific pronouns, any pronouns, or none at all. Here is an example of using “they/them” in a sentence: John is substituting for me today and they are an incredible mathematician.

Using singular “they” pronouns have been used in the English language for centuries. If you are still struggling with using this, remember, it takes practice!

Local Resources

[Southern Arizona Gender Alliance](#): SAGA is a non-profit organization that provides support, education, resources, and advocacy for Southern Arizona’s diverse community of trans and gender nonconforming individuals. We envision a world in which all people who are gender fabulous are guaranteed basic rights and personal liberation; where we can all be open, honest, and safe wherever we go. We welcome allies. We train businesses. We build community.

[Goodwill Metro](#): The METRO Goodwill® Youth Program serves youth and young adults ages 16-24 years seeking employment and education in the community. We assist them with their goals, connect them to resources, provide career pathways, and give a sense of purpose for the future. Note: This resource is geared more towards youth and prevention/support services.



Pima County Public Library: Pima County Public Library (PCPL) serves the entire community's information needs. Our vision is an educated, connected community of readers, learners, doers, and dreamers. PCPL's **LGBTQ+ Services Committee** was established in 1997 and is dedicated to serving Southern Arizona's LGBTQ+ library users. We develop **lists of materials**, host Rainbow Storytimes and our **Rainbow Reads Book Chat**, and **much more**. Most of our locations have a member of the LGBTQ+ Services committee on site!

Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness offers LGBTQ+ Equity Training Series that provides context, foundational education, and best practices in homeless assistance program design and delivery related to LGBTQ+ communities with a focus on equity and inclusion funding. <https://tpch.talentlms.com/catalog/info/id:179>

Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th: The **Thornhill Lopez Center on 4th (TLC4)** is a SAAF place for LGBTQ+ and allied youth ages 13-24 to visit in order to access a variety of services to support their health and well-being. According to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), less than 50% of LGBTQ+ youth say they have an adult in their family they could turn to for help. The top three most important problems for LGBTQ+ youth in their lives right now include non-accepting families, bullying and problems at school, and fear of being out. TLC4 provides critical services and support for youth that need support:

- Safe, drop-in services
- Homeless youth support
- Food, clothing, and housing-referral assistance
- Showers
- Suicide prevention programming
- Sexual-violence prevention programming
- HIV testing and counseling
- Substance abuse prevention
- Sex-positive education
- Life skills
- Referral to other community programs
- Culturally competent care
- Computer lab
- Art expression
- Peer socialization
- A place to be themselves

Staff at TLC4 can be accessed as part of the GSA Network and collaborative work with GLSEN, to come to schools, speak to GSA's, counselors, teachers, and classrooms. We also can provide capacity building training through our partnership with the UA SIROW program, Lighthouse. **Emerson Kuhn** (he & her), Youth Services Manager, ekuhn@saaf.org 520-547-6109

The **LGBTQ+ Equity Training Series** was developed by the University of Arizona Southwest Institute for Research on Women with funding from the City of Tucson and the TPCY Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. This training series provides context, foundational education, and best practices in homeless assistance program design and delivery related to

LGBTQ+ communities with a focus on equity and inclusion. The full training series totals approximately 3 hours and 45 minutes of instruction time.

Local Medical Resources

El Rio's Transgender Medicine: El Rio provides affirming, respectful, high-quality healthcare to the Tucson Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) communities.

El Rio RHAP Health Services: El Rio also provides adolescent sexual health, teen health, and gender identity support for youth over 14. Their goal is to ensure that all young people in Tucson have access to the reproductive health care they need.

National Educator Resources

GLSEN hosts [research](#), [resources](#) for student and educator guidance and activity, and [programming](#) around days of action to support LGBTQ+ inclusivity in schools. They publish a variety of helpful individual resources, including [Supporting Trans and GNC Students](#), [Ready, Set, Respect! GLSEN's Elementary School Toolkit](#), suggestions for [Inclusive Curriculum](#), and the [Safe Space](#) guide and kit, in addition to providing direct professional development.

GLSEN's Rainbow Library is a program that sends LGBTQ+ affirming K-12 text sets to schools across select states and counties. Books are not yet available in Arizona yet, however ebooks are available through <https://www.rainbowlibrary.org/ebooks>.

HRC Foundation's Welcoming Schools provides a range of services from direct training or professional development for entire schools or administrative teams to free resources, including [lesson plans](#) and guides to understanding legal backing creating school response to bias-based bullying.

Schools In Transition is a guide for supporting transgender students in K-12 schools. It includes multiple programs and resources to help understand how teachers can help. Helpful content includes complex issues, legal landscape, creating an affirming school for all, puberty & medical transition, gender and pronouns, gender support and gender transition plans, and assessing transgender students for special education.

Learning for Justice, previously Teaching Tolerance, provides free educational resources on a variety of social justice related topics, including lesson plans and curriculum that focus on [gender identity](#).

[The Trevor Project](#) is best known as the largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ+ youth. In addition to hosting 24/7, free access to trained counselors via [online chat, phone call or text](#), they publish helpful resources for allies such as this [Guide to Being an Ally to Transgender and Nonbinary Youth](#).

[Hope in a Box](#) provides public school educators with curated sets of LGBTQ-inclusive literature, distinctive curriculum for these books, and community and training on how to build an LGBTQ-inclusive classroom. They are the nation's largest early-intervention program for building LGBTQ-inclusive classrooms and maintain the most extensive library of LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum in the United States.

Elementary School Resource

[Ready, Set, Respect! GLSEN's Elementary School Toolkit](#)

District Resource

[MODEL LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY POLICY ON TRANSGENDER AND NONBINARY STUDENTS](#) uses resources from [GLSEN](#), and [NCTE](#) to ensure that all students have a safe and welcoming educational environment. With transgender and nonbinary students being apart of schools, it is important that educators and administrators are aware of the needs of these students.

Parent Resources

[A Parent's Quick Guide for In-School Transitions](#) provides support to parents and caregivers navigating the process of in-school social transition with their child and their child's school. The guide is intended to offer a quick reference for parents through the process, in a step-by-step manner.

[For Trans Youth & Families](#) is a resource page provided by Society on Research for Adolescence to help with preparing and learning about what your transgender, gender expansive, or non-binary child is experiencing. "Affirming them is just the beginning, becoming an ally follows, and remember that you are never alone because there is a giant network of families who are here to support you."

U.S. Government Resources

US Department of Education OCR, Resources for LGBTQI+ Students: Provides resources to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence through civil rights laws protecting all students from unlawful discrimination/harassment.

- [Back-to-School Message for Transgender Students from the U.S. Depts of Justice, Education, and HHS.](#) The Justice Department sends out reassurance, safety, and positivity to transgender students for the back to school season
- [U.S. Department of Education Supporting Transgender Youth in Schools.](#) This handout provides supportive information on how schools can support students and communicate to their families of any harassment occurring in an educational setting. This resource also includes professional development opportunities for teachers to learn more on how they can help.

Other resources

Arizona Trans Youth and Parent Organization (AZTYPO) is a family support group to empower children, teens, and their families in a supportive and inclusive environment. [AZTYPO](#) supports all ages of children/youth and provides [family support, education and outreach](#), and [community development](#).