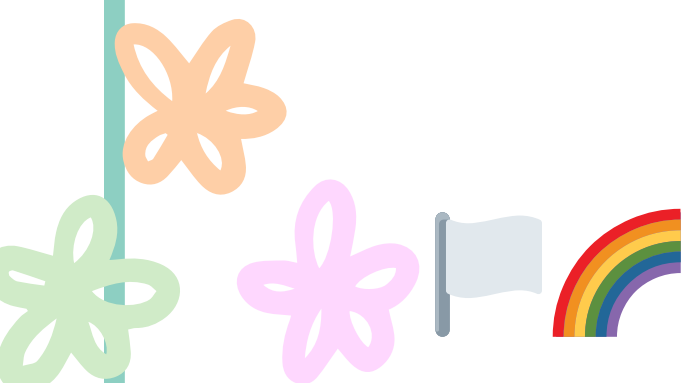




“Rights & Support for Being Yourself”

Q1: Can my school stop me from forming or joining an LGBTQ+ club (like a GSA)?

A: No. Under the Equal Access Act, if your school allows other non-curricular clubs, it must also allow LGBTQ+ clubs. Schools cannot ban you just because of the group’s topic.

Q2: Can teachers or staff “out” me to my parents without my permission?

A: Generally, no. While policies vary by state, many school districts protect student privacy. Outing a student without consent can violate FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and Title IX protections.

Q3: Do I have the right to use the bathroom or locker room that matches my gender identity?

A: Yes, in many places. The U.S. Department of Education (Title IX guidance, 2021) states that discrimination based on gender identity is a form of sex discrimination. Some states may differ, but federally, you’re protected.

Q4: What if I face bullying or harassment because I’m LGBTQ+?

A: Schools are required under Title IX (sex-based discrimination) and in some cases state anti-bullying laws to investigate and address harassment. You can report it to a teacher, counselor, principal, or your district’s Title IX coordinator.

Q5: Can I bring a same-sex date to school dances like prom?

A: Yes. Courts have ruled (like in *Fricke v. Lynch*, 1980) that schools cannot ban same-sex couples from events—it’s your right under the First Amendment and equal protection laws.

Q6: Do I have to put my legal name or assigned gender on school records?

A: Schools often require legal names for official documents, but many districts allow students to request preferred names and pronouns in class, yearbooks, and IDs. This is increasingly protected under Title IX and local policies.

Q7: What should I do if I feel unsafe or unsupported?

A:

- Talk to a trusted teacher, counselor, or your school’s Title IX coordinator.
- File a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights if the school fails to act.
- For immediate support, reach out to LGBTQ+ hotlines like The Trevor Project (**1-866-488-7386** or text “START” to **678678**).



Life & Law
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