



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Commissioner of Education
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May 25, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

On May 13, 2016, the U.S. Departments of Education (USDE) and Justice (USDOJ) Offices of Civil Rights issued [joint guidance](#) to school districts providing educators information required to ensure that all students, including transgender students, can attend school in an environment free of discrimination. [7 KLV IHGHUO JXLGDQFH SURKLELWV GLVFULPLQD V LGHQWLW\ LQFOXGLQJ GLVFULPLQDWLRQ E](#) You may also read [What XGHQV](#) in July of 2015, the New York State Department of Education's [Creating a Safe and Supportive](#)

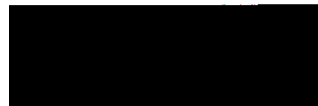
Environment for Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students that complemented the New York State Dignity for All Students Act: A Resource and Toolkit for School Administrators & Faculty (revised 2013)

¹. Please click on this link [NYSED Dignity Act Home](#) to review the Promising Practices guidance document.

In addition, we are pleased to report that the USD (U.S. Department of) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education released a document entitled [Examples of Policies and Emerging Practices for Supporting Transgender Students](#), a collection of policies and practices that educational sectors across the country have in place supporting transgender students, and have highlighted [1 < 6 \(' \)](#) guidance on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students. The USDOE and the USDOJ have also provided resources on Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 with additional supporting government resources specific for transgender and gender nonconforming students - <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-departments-education-and-justice-release-joint-guidance-help-schools-ensure-civil-rights-transgender-students>

District administrators and school staff should continue to take proactive steps to create a positive school culture and climate in which transgender and gender non-conforming students feel safe, supported, and fully included. The Department looks forward to working with schools to help foster an environment where all students learn in a safe and supportive school environment. If you need additional information, please contact the Office of Student Support Services at 518-486-6090.

Sincerely,



MaryEllen Elia
Commissioner

¹ http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/documents/Transg_GNCGuidanceFINAL.pdf