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LGBTQ Youth: Forced Outing of Transgender Students

No updates required since January 16, 2025

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Background

Since 2020, there has been a rapidly escalating legislative attack on transgender people, and particularly on transgender youth. This includes a growing number of bills (and now laws) that explicitly require school staff—and in some cases, any government or public employee—to out transgender youth to their families, often without regard for whether doing so might put the child at risk of harm. Importantly, however, these laws vary in their actual requirements, as discussed below.

Map categories and detail

(-1) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth if they make specific disclosures or requests about their gender identity to school staff

- In this category, if students make specific requests for accommodations about their gender identity—such as asking school staff to use a different name or pronouns for the student—then school staff are required to notify parents. In most cases, this should not require, for example, school staff to notify parents if the student makes the mere mention of thinking they might be transgender. South Carolina is currently the only state that requires schools to notify parents if the minor makes the mere mention of thinking they might be transgender.

(-0.5) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth, but only if parents ask school staff for the information

- In this category, students' own requests for accommodations (like name or pronoun use) do not require school staff to notify parents, but school staff are required to tell parents if the parents ask for information specifically regarding the student's gender or gender identity. In the bills, this is often phrased as school staff "shall not withhold information" about a student's gender identity, which is distinct from the required notification language in the previous category.

(-0.25) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth before school staff can use a student's preferred name/pronouns, but a student's mere request to use a different name or pronouns does not itself require forced outing

- In this category, students' own requests for accommodations alone do not require school staff to notify parents, but school staff are required to get parental permission to use the student's preferred name or pronouns—which necessarily requires notifying parents. The mere request alone does not require forced outing, but complying with the request would.

[Yellow caution icon] State law does not require forced outing, but may contribute to a hostile school climate

- Additionally, some states' laws have vague requirements to notify parents about any "health" or behavioral concern, but that do not make any explicit mention of gender or gender identity. Because these laws could be very broadly interpreted and used to target both transgender youth and LGBTQ youth more broadly, these may contribute to a hostile school climate for LGBTQ youth even without explicitly requiring forced outing.



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Equality Map & Additional Resources

- See our [Equality Map: Forced Outing of Transgender Youth in Schools](#), which is updated and maintained in real time alongside this document.
- See [GLSEN’s State Report Cards](#), which evaluate how a range of state policies advance or restrict access to four evidence-based supports for safe, inclusive K-12 learning environments.
- See [GLSEN’s research](#) on the importance of inclusive and safe school environments for the health and wellbeing of transgender youth and LGBTQ youth more broadly.

Summary Table

Category	States	Bill	Year
State law requires forced outing of transgender youth if they make specific disclosures or requests about their gender identity to school staff (5 states)	Indiana	HB1608	2023
	Iowa	SF496	2023
	Ohio	HB8	2025
	South Carolina	H4624	2024
	Tennessee	HB2165/SB1810	2024
State law requires forced outing of transgender youth, but only if parents ask school staff for the information (2 states)	Alabama	SB184	2022
	North Dakota	HB1522	2023
State law requires forced outing of transgender youth before school staff can use a student’s preferred name/pronouns, but a student’s mere request to use a different name or pronouns does not itself require forced outing (7 states)	Arkansas	HB1468	2023
	Idaho	HB538	2024
	Montana	SB518	2023
	Nevada*	NAC 388.880 3(3)	2018
	North Carolina	SB49	2023
	Utah*	SB100	2023
	Virginia*	DOE Model Policies	2023
No bans or restrictions (36 states, DC, + 5 territories)	All others		

*Note, Nevada’s policy is via regulation, not legislation.

*Note, Utah’s law applies only to official changes to a student’s education records (e.g., their gender marker or name officially noted on their record), not daily interaction with the student (e.g., conversational use of preferred name/pronouns).

*Note, Virginia’s policy is via agency policy, not legislation or regulation. However, state law requires school districts to adopt this model policy—though there has been resistance, and so implementation or enforcement may vary across the state. See below for more information.



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State-by-State Sources & More Detail

Alabama

- (-0.5) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth, but only if parents ask school staff for the information
- See [SB184](#) (2022), Section 5, requiring that no school staff shall “withhold from a minor’s parent or legal guardian information related to a minor’s perception that his or her gender or sex is inconsistent with his or her sex.”

Alaska

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Arizona

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)
- State law [HB2161](#) (2022), requires schools to allow parents to access “all written and electronic records...concerning the parent’s child,” but this is already required by [federal law](#), and this provision of state law makes no explicit mention of gender identity.

Arkansas

- (-0.25) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth before school staff can use a student’s preferred name/pronouns, but a student’s mere request to use a different name or pronouns does not itself require forced outing
- See [HB1468](#) (2023)

California

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Colorado

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Connecticut

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Delaware

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

District of Columbia

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)



Florida

- (Caution icon) State law does not require forced outing, but may contribute to a hostile school climate
- See [H241](#) (2021), saying “An employee of the state, any of its political subdivisions, or any other governmental entity who encourages or coerces, or attempts to encourage or coerce, a minor child to withhold information from his or her parent may be subject to disciplinary action.” However, this provision makes no explicit mention of gender identity.
- See also [H1557](#) (2022), saying that schools may not “discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions about a student’s mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being,” among other provisions. However, this provision makes no explicit mention of gender identity.

Georgia

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)
- State law ([HB1178](#), 2022) requires that parents have “the right to access and review all records relating to his or her minor child,” but this is already required by [federal law](#), and this provision of state law makes no explicit mention of gender identity.

Hawai`i

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Idaho

- (-0.25) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth before school staff can use a student’s preferred name/pronouns, but a student’s mere request to use a different name or pronouns does not itself require forced outing
- See [HB538](#) (2024)
- Previously, state law did not require forced outing but may have contributed to hostile school climate. See [HB163](#) (2023), and that it made no explicit mention of gender identity.

Illinois

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Indiana

- (-1) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth if they make specific disclosures or requests about their gender identity to school staff
- See [HB1608](#) (2023), Section 4, requiring schools to notify in writing at least one parent if the student asks to change the student’s name, pronoun, title or “word to identify the student.” Schools are required to give this notice within five business days.

Iowa

- (-1) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth if they make specific disclosures or requests about their gender identity to school staff
- See [SF496](#) (2023), Section 14



Kansas

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Kentucky

- (Caution icon) State law does not require forced outing, but may contribute to a hostile school climate
- See [SB150](#) (2023), Section 1, subsections (3)-(5)a, requiring schools to obtain parental consent for any mental health services for the student, to notify parents if school personnel refer students for mental health services, to “encourage” students to discuss issues with their parents, and prohibiting schools from having policies or procedures “with the intent of keeping any student information confidential from parents.” However, this section of the law makes no explicit mention of gender identity.
 - However, see also 1(5)d, which says school staff can withhold information from a parent “if a reasonably prudent person would believe, based on previous conduct and history,” that informing parents might put the child at risk of abuse or neglect. This may help mitigate potential outing of at least some transgender students.

Louisiana

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)
- Note, [HB 121](#) (2024) enacted a number of discriminatory policies but does not require schools to out transgender youth to their parent(s).

Maine

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Maryland

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Massachusetts

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Michigan

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Minnesota

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Mississippi

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Missouri

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)



Montana

- (-0.25) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth before school staff can use a student's preferred name/pronouns, but a student's mere request to use a different name or pronouns does not itself require forced outing
- See [SB518](#) (2023)
- See also [HB676](#) (2023), requiring that government employees "may not withhold from a child's parent information that is relevant to the physical, emotional, or mental health of a child," though this provision makes no explicit mention of gender identity.

Nebraska

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Nevada

- (-0.25) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth before school staff can use a student's preferred name/pronouns, but a student's mere request to use a different name or pronouns does not itself require forced outing
- See [NAC 388.880 3\(3\)](#) (2018)

New Hampshire

- (Caution icon) State law does not require forced outing, but may contribute to a hostile school climate
- See [HB1312](#) (2024), prohibiting schools from adopting a policy that prohibits school staff from answering parents' questions about students' sexuality. The law does not require schools to adopt a hostile policy.

New Jersey

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

New Mexico

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

New York

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

North Carolina

- (-0.25) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth before school staff can use a student's preferred name/pronouns, but a student's mere request to use a different name or pronouns does not itself require forced outing
- See [SB49](#) (2023), Part 4(a)(5)



North Dakota

- (-0.5) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth, but only if parents ask school staff for the information
- See [HB1522](#) (2023), requiring that schools may not “withhold or conceal information about a student’s transgender status from the student’s parent or legal guardian.”

Ohio

- (-1) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth if they make specific disclosures or requests about their gender identity to school staff
- See [HB8](#) (2025), requiring that schools “Promptly notify a student's parent of any substantial change in the student's services, including counseling services, or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being,” and defining “student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being” to explicitly include “any request by a student to identify as a gender that does not align with the student's biological sex.”

Oklahoma

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Oregon

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Pennsylvania

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Rhode Island

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

South Carolina

- (-1) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth if they make specific disclosures or requests about their gender identity to school staff
- See [H4624](#) (2024), Section 2

South Dakota

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Tennessee

- (-1) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth if they make specific disclosures or requests about their gender identity to school staff
- See [HB2165/SB1810](#) (2024)

Texas

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)



Utah

- (-0.25) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth before school staff can use a student's preferred name/pronouns, but a student's mere request to use a different name or pronouns does not itself require forced outing
- See [SB100](#) (2023), requiring that schools cannot "make changes to the student's education record regarding a student's gender identity that does not conform with the student's sex" without parental consent.
 - Note, this is a more narrow application than other states in this category. Utah's law applies only to official changes to a student's education records (e.g., their gender marker or name officially noted on their record), not daily interaction with the student (e.g., conversational use of preferred name/pronouns).

Vermont

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Virginia

- (-0.25) State law requires forced outing of transgender youth before school staff can use a student's preferred name/pronouns, but a student's mere request to use a different name or pronouns does not itself require forced outing
- See [Dept of Education Model Policies](#) (p16) (July 2023), Dept of Education's [announcement](#) of these policies (2023), and [§ 22.1-23.3](#) (2020), requiring school districts to adopt the agency's model policies.

Washington

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)
- State law [I-2081](#) (2024) requires that parents have the right to review their child's school records, but this is already required by [federal law](#), and this provision of state law makes no explicit mention of gender identity. Additionally, provisions of I-2081 that some were concerned would enable forced outing were [temporarily blocked](#) by court order in June 2024. See [Legal Counsel for Youth and Children, et. al. v. State of Washington](#) (filed May 2024).

West Virginia

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Wisconsin

- State law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Wyoming

- (Caution icon) State law does not require forced outing, but may contribute to a hostile school climate
- See [SF 9](#) (2024), requiring schools to notify a parent if there is a change in the student's health or well-being, but making no explicit mention of gender.



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U.S. Territories

American Samoa

- Territory law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Guam

- Territory law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Northern Mariana Islands

- Territory law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

Puerto Rico

- Territory law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)

U.S. Virgin Islands

- Territory law does not force school staff to out transgender students to their parent(s)