



**GENDER**  
**JUSTICE**

# Transgender Students: Know Your Rights

Our client Nick was singled out by his Minnesota high school and forced to use segregated changing facilities no other student was required to use, which led to bullying and threats.

We sued the Anoka-Hennepin school district because they treated Nick differently than other students and failed to provide him with an equal and adequate education. We asserted that, in doing so, the district violated the Minnesota Human Rights Act and the Minnesota Constitution.

A State Court of Appeals agreed with us, and found that it violates both the Minnesota Human Rights Act and the Minnesota Constitution for school districts to segregate transgender students from their peers in locker room facilities.

**This was a critical victory that expanded and cemented the rights of all transgender students in Minnesota schools.**

This year alone, we've won more than half a million dollars in settlements for our transgender clients who experienced discrimination and bullying at schools. Our victories for trans students should put Minnesota schools on notice: It is illegal – and expensive – to discriminate against transgender students in our state.

**“The Minnesota Constitution, as well as the Minnesota Human Rights Act, are firmly on the side of transgender students.**

**It’s not just a suggestion that schools respect the gender identities of trans students; it’s the law.”**

**Jess Braverman,**  
**Gender Justice Legal**  
**Director**

This information is intended to serve as a guide for transgender students and their families and advocates, but it is not a substitute for Minnesota or federal law.

# Transgender Students: Know Your Rights

**“I wanted the school district and the school board to understand that how they allowed me to be treated was wrong, and to hopefully make things better for the next generation of students – not just at Anoka-Hennepin, but across Minnesota.”**

**Nick, transgender former student & Gender Justice client**

Transgender Students in Minnesota are entitled to:

- **Use the same restrooms and locker rooms as other students.** Minnesota schools are prohibited by law from forcing transgender students to use segregated facilities.
- **Use the restrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities that align with their gender identity.** It's illegal and unconstitutional for schools to force transgender students to use facilities that don't align with their gender identities.
- **Participate authentically in all school-related activities.** Schools should not treat students differently based on their gender identity, and students must be allowed to participate in school activities in a way that aligns with their gender identity.
- **Participate on teams that align with their gender identity.** The Minnesota State High School League allows all students, regardless of their gender, to participate in sports and play on teams that align with their gender identity.
- **Be protected from bullying.** The Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act requires schools to adopt policies that prohibit harassment and bullying, including harassment and bullying based on sex, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation.



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