



**GENDER**  
**JUSTICE**

# Transgender Students: New Year, New Law

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.



**GENDER**  
**JUSTICE**

# Transgender Students: New Year, New Law

**“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**

As students return to school from distance and remote learning, some students will be returning to school for the first time since socially transitioning at home. That means some students will come back to school with new names, new pronouns, and new gender identities.

**Minnesota schools have a legal obligation to welcome these students back into respectful, informed, and trans-inclusive learning environments.**

As a result of our client Nick's victory earlier this year, transgender students in Minnesota are legally entitled to:

- Use the same restrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities as other students.
- Use the restrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities that align with their gender identity.
- Participate authentically in all school-related activities.
- Participate on teams that align with their gender identity.
- Be protected from bullying.

**Respecting transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming young people isn't just a the law; It's the right thing to do for Minnesota students.**

That's because trans-inclusion is a life or death issue.

A recent survey conducted by the Trevor Project found that 52% of all transgender and non-binary young people in the U.S. seriously contemplated suicide in 2020. Being able to show up authentically, however, significantly mitigated trans and non-binary students' risk of suicide and self-harm.

 @genderjustice

 Gender-Justice

 GenderJustice

 @genderjustice