



Student Restroom/Locker Room Guidance

Washington Local Schools is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all students. The district's practice outlined below is in alignment with state and federal law, in addition to case law in courts that have jurisdiction over Ohio schools. Board policies encompassed here include: Student Code of Conduct (po5500), Zero Tolerance (po5501), Care of School Property (po5513), Student Rights (po5780) and the WLS Anti-Harassment policy (po5517).

School Restroom Facilities

Restrooms across the District include: individual-use, family-use and single-sex facilities with multiple private stalls. The number and type of restrooms vary in each building, depending on the school population and grade levels served. All students and staff are welcome to use individual-use bathrooms at any time.

School Restroom Permissions

Students may use the restroom during lunch and other predetermined break times and with permission from staff, as requested. Individual-use restrooms are accessible to students at all times. Behaviors in student restrooms align with those of other school areas, requiring students to be safe (po5501), responsible (po5513) and respectful (po5500) while using facilities. If a student is found to be in violation of District procedures, or engaged in inappropriate behavior, the student would face discipline for violating the Student Code of Conduct (po5500).

Locker Room Facilities Usage

Locker room facilities follow the same rules and guidelines as restrooms, with student behavior expectations aligned with our Student Code of Conduct (po5500) and state/federal guidelines. Any student wishing for a more private space to change can be accommodated with administrative permission.

Transgender Students Using Restroom Facilities

Just as with all students, transgender students are encouraged to speak to any building administrator if they have concerns about the restroom process (po5780). The availability of individual-use restrooms for everyone often eliminates these concerns.

Transgender Students, Public Schools and the Law

Transgender students have the right to use school facilities in accordance with their sexual identity based on case law that has jurisdiction in Ohio (1). WLS is prohibited from denying a transgender student access to a restroom consistent with their gender identity, (po5780) which would constitute sex discrimination based on Title IX or the Equal Protection Clause. Additionally, Board Policy 5517 prohibits discriminatory harassment based on sex, including gender identity (2).

While there have been cases in other legal jurisdictions with differing decisions, they do not have authority over Ohio. The District will continue to consult with its attorneys to stay up-to-date with any related court cases and federal and state laws associated with the use of school facilities by transgender students in Ohio public schools.

1 The 6th Circuit Court ruled in December of 2016 to stay a preliminary injunction on a school district policy that prevented a transgender student from using the facilities based on their sexual identity. The court, and the plaintiff in the case, cited the Federal Equal Protection Clause Law in rendering their decision.

2 [WLS Anti-Harassment Policy \(po5517\)](#)