

# Where Pink Meets Blue

Creating a Safe Community for  
Transgender and Gender Non-  
Conforming Youth

# Introductions

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# What is 'Transgender?'

- Definition: Umbrella term used when someone's gender identity is different from the biological sex they were assigned at birth.

# What is 'Cisgender?'

- Definition: When someone's gender identity and gender expression matches the biological sex they were assigned at birth.

# What is 'Gender Non-conforming?'

- Definition: When someone's gender presentation or gender expression is different from what is anticipated by those around them. It may or may not match the biological sex that they were assigned at birth.
- Synonyms: Gender creative, Gender expansive, Genderqueer

# How do we know if someone is a transgender youth?

- ◉ No diagnostics (blood, x-ray, ultrasound)
- ◉ “Persistent, insistent, and consistent”
- ◉ Not a mental illness
  - > Gender dysphoria

# When does gender non-conformity “happen?”

- ◉ Any time
- ◉ Peak at 3-4 years old
- ◉ Second peak at puberty





# THE SPECTRUM

Our sexuality and gender identity aren't set in stone. In fact, people's identities can be fluid. THE SPECTRUM can help you visualize how you feel at any given time. Mark how you identify today on each line, but don't feel limited – it's ok to mark something different tomorrow!

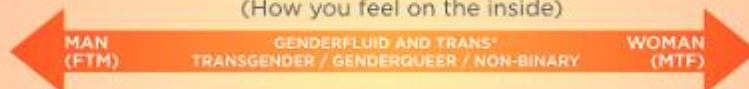
## BIOLOGICAL SEX

(What the doctor assigned you at birth)



## GENDER IDENTITY

(How you feel on the inside)



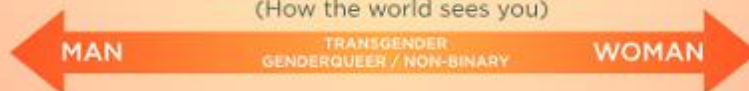
## GENDER EXPRESSION

(How you present yourself to others)



## GENDER PRESENTATION

(How the world sees you)



## SEXUAL ORIENTATION

(Who you like)



# Pronouns

- ◉ She/Her/Hers
- ◉ They/Them/Theirs
- ◉ He/Him/His
- ◉ Zhe, Hir

1	2	3	4	5
(f)ae	(f)aer	(f)aer	(f)aers	(f)aerself
e/ey	em	eir	eirs	eirself
he	him	his	his	himself
per	per	pers	pers	perself
she	her	her	hers	herself
they	them	their	theirs	themself
ve	ver	vis	vis	verself
xe	xem	xyr	xyrs	xemself
ze/zie	hir	hir	hirs	hirself

WHEN IN DOUBT....  
WHEN NOT IN DOUBT...  
ASK!

# Names

- ◉ Importance of using the correct name
- ◉ Name “stories”

“OH NO, I MADE A  
MISTAKE!!!”

YOU: "OUCH!"

ME: "OOPS, I'M SORRY."



# Transitions

- ◉ Public vs. Private
- ◉ Social
  - > Disappear or Stay with Known Community
- ◉ Medical
  - > Reversible vs. Irreversible
- ◉ Legal
  - > Driver's License, Passport, Legal Name and Gender
  - > Birth Certificate
- ◉ Who else is affected?

# Transgender Youth at School

- ◉ Safety
- ◉ Classroom
  - > Curriculum
  - > Culture
- ◉ Activities

SAFE SCHOOLS

# SAFE AND SUPPORTED GENDER TRANSITIONS AT SCHOOL

Previously, the assumption was that schools and other institutions were unsafe for a transgender child who has socially transitioned. Families faced 2 problematic choices: change location and attempt to enter a new school maintaining complete privacy (an uncertain prospect at best), or accept that their child would need to continue unhappily going to school as the “wrong” gender.

Increasingly, however, transgender children and caregivers are navigating a third, more positive course: working with schools to support a student’s gender transition. Facilitated by intentional and systematic planning, a growing body of practice and resources are developing that can create conditions in which a young person’s gender transition can successfully take place publicly. Through a carefully crafted gender support plan, a team-based approach, and effective training by organizations such as Gender Spectrum ([www.genderspectrum.org](http://www.genderspectrum.org)) and the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network ([www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)), schools across the country are navigating this new territory.

In working with their transgender patients, pediatricians must be able to help them envision the possibility of living authentically and to connect them with the necessary resources to do so.

# SCHOOLS ARE **UNSAFE** AND UNWELCOMING FOR THE MAJORITY OF LGBT STUDENTS.



Heard homophobic remarks frequently or often

65%

heard homophobic remarks like "fag" or "dyke" frequently or often



Missed at least one day of school

30%

missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable



Verbally harassed at school in the past year

85%

were verbally harassed in the past year

LEARN MORE IN GLSEN'S LATEST  
NATIONAL SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY AT [GLSEN.ORG/NSCS](https://www.glsen.org/nsccs)

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## What's School Like for K-12 Students Who Express a Transgender Identity or Gender Nonconformity?



78% are harassed



35% are physically assaulted



12% are sexually assaulted



6% are expelled

Source is "Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the  
National Transgender Discrimination Survey,"  
National Center for Transgender Equality and the  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011

## TRANSGENDER NUMBERS

*An estimated one in 200 to one in 500 people worldwide have a gender identity that differs from their biological sex at birth. Here are some statistics from recent Canadian polls of those who identify as transgender or gender-nonconforming:*



Subjected to verbal threats or harassment



Turned down for a job due to being transgender



Have been targets of mockery



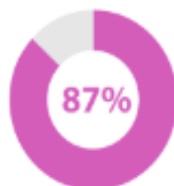
Seriously considered suicide



Attempted suicide



Drop in suicide attempts among youth with strongly supportive parents



Trans students who felt unsafe in places at school



Physically or sexually assaulted due to their gender identity/expression



Living on less than \$15,000 per year

# How Do We Protect Kids?

- ◉ Same as other anti-bullying efforts
- ◉ Ask the kids and believe them.
  - > Where (locations) do you feel least safe?
  - > What situations make you feel unsafe?



How does being  
attacked everyday in  
the media affect  
schoolwork?

# Educational Activities that Represent ALL Students

“No district shall include in its course of study instruction which...(1) promotes a homosexual lifestyle...(2) portrays homosexuality as a positive alternative lifestyle....(3) suggests that some methods of sex are safe methods of homosexual sex.”

AZ Rev. Stat. § 15-716(c).

# Classroom Culture

- ◉ Nicknames
- ◉ Dividing up by something other than gender
- ◉ Representations in the classroom
- ◉ “Boys are...” or “Girls are...”
- ◉ Role play, costumes, clothing

# Curriculum Concepts

- Pre-K/Lower elementary: There are lots of ways to be boys or girls or something else! Toys are toys. Hair is hair. Colors are colors. Clothes are clothes.
- Elementary: Gender is very complex and is not just about bodies.
  - > Read “I am Jazz” and discuss
- Middle School: Social expectations about gender. Roles and responsibilities within a community.
  - > What are stereotypes about transgender people?
- High School: Gender as a social construct. Gender as a civil rights issue.
  - > Famous trans people in history. What were their contributions?

Extra Curricular Activities  
Open to ALL Students

# Common Gendered Activities

- ◉ Elementary School: “Mother/Son” or “Father/Daughter” activities
- ◉ Middle School: Sports, dances, opinion pieces, “the body” talk, 8<sup>th</sup> grade campout
- ◉ High School: Sports, prom, graduation, overnight trips

# Frequently Asked Questions



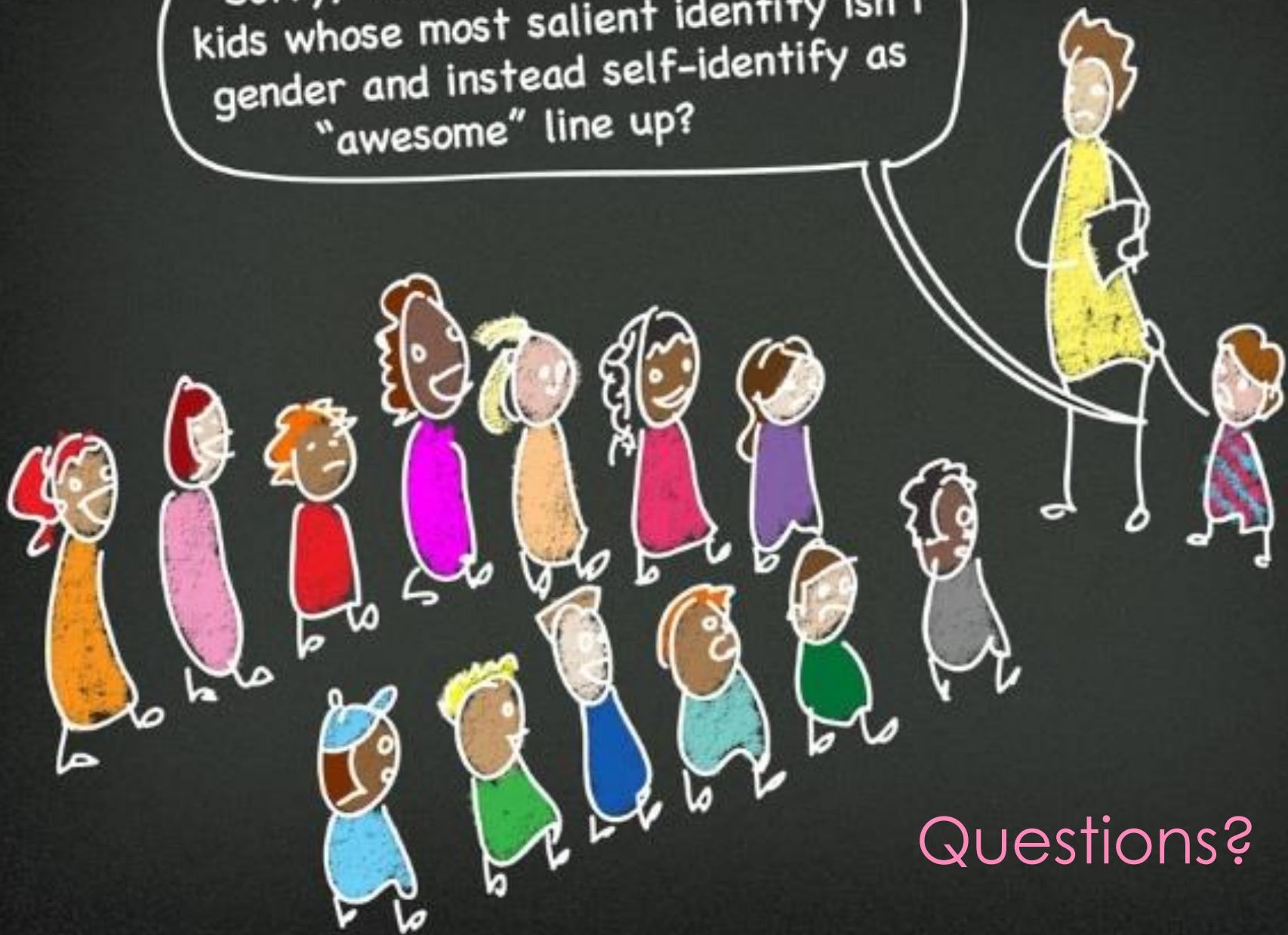
What about the  
Bathroom?

What if we're wrong?  
What if it's "just a  
phase?"

Is this just a fad?

What if it's the parents?  
“My kid thought he was  
Spiderman for 6  
months...”

Sorry, Teacher, but where do the kids whose most salient identity isn't gender and instead self-identify as "awesome" line up?



Questions?