PARENT & CAREGIVER GUIDE

Supporting California's LGBTQ+ Students and Communities

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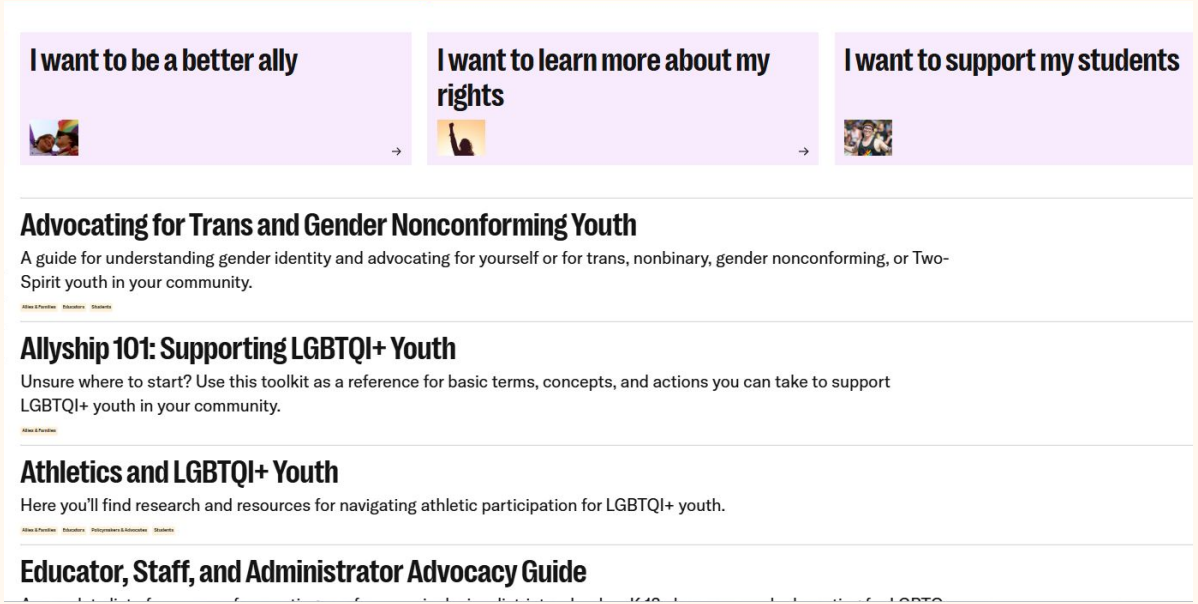
October 11, 2026 | Tapestry UU
tinyurl.com/OCECOct11



Before We Begin: This talk isn't LGBTQ+ 101, but resources abound!

Glisten and glaad are excellent places to start

- Definitions & key talking points
- GLAAD Media Glossary
- FAQs for parents & educators
- Supporting GSAs & pride alliances
- Tools for allyship



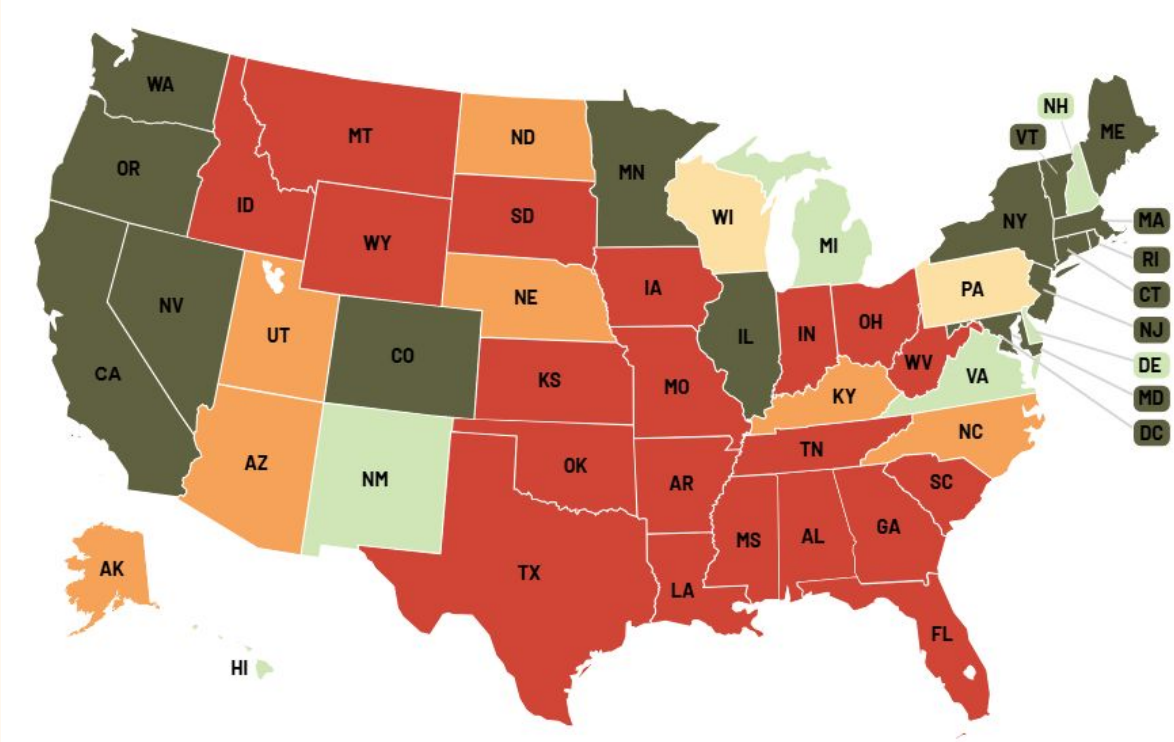
glisten.org/resources

LGBTQ+ Students, families & communities are everywhere

- 9.3% of US adults identify as LGBTQ (Gallop, 2025)
- More than 24 million LGBTQ+ adults nationwide (Gallop, 2025)
- More than 2.8 million LGBTQ+ adults in California (ppic, 2024 | CA OAG, 2026)
- More than 500,000 LGBTQ+ young people enrolled in CA public schools (Equality California, 2026)
- Estimated 27,000 LGBTQ+ educators in California (and 372,000 nationwide)



The National Landscape for LGBTQ+ Students and Communities



High Overall Policy Score
15 states + D.C.

Medium Overall Policy Score
6 states

Fair Overall Policy Score
2 states + 2 territories

Low Overall Policy Score
7 states + 3 territories

Negative Overall Policy Score
20 states

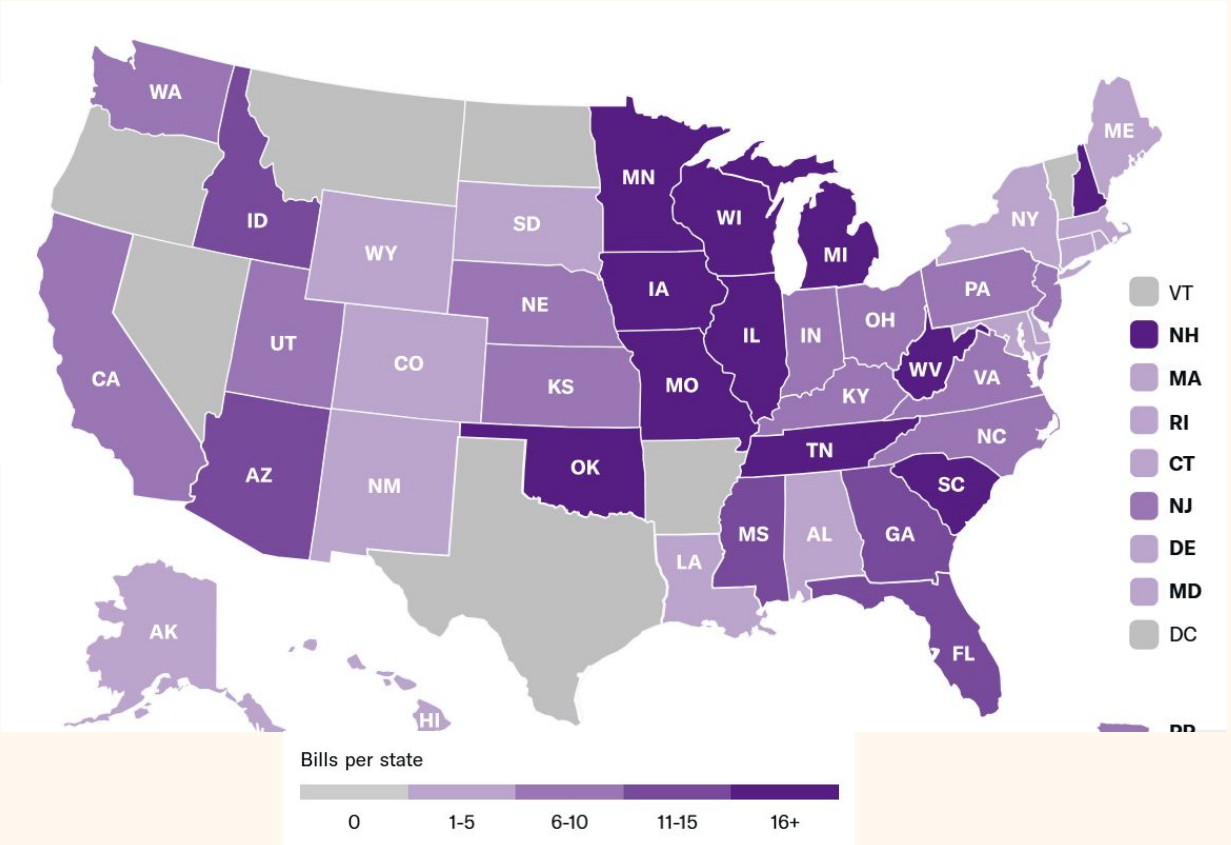
Methodology | Policy Score FAQ

The National Landscape for LGBTQ+ Students and Communities

2026 Legislative Session

The ACLU is tracking 531 Anti-LGBTQ bills in the U.S.

Updated September 24, 2026




Unprecedented attacks on
Inclusive Literature
Queer/ Queer Affirming Teachers
Inclusive Curriculum
Gender - Aligned Facilities
Military Service
Name Changes / Pronouns
Research Funding
Legal Recognition
Healthcare Services
Passport/ Travel / Real ID
Discrimination Protections
Right to Publicly Exist
Drag
Marriage Equality
Sports Involvement
Adoption
School Funding
Affirming Families

The attacks keep coming.

ADVOCATE

June 23, 2026

Court strips away California protections for transgender students' privacy

The ruling limits enforcement of California's SAFETY Act, which was designed to protect LGBTQ+ students from being outed without their consent.



A federal court has blocked California's protections against outing trans kids involuntarily. / Alex Millauer / Shutterstock

By Jacob Ogles

Jun 23, 2026

The attacks keep coming.

NEWS BRIEF

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 — 9:57 AM

U.S. Department of Education ends Title IX protections for LGBTQ+ students

The attacks keep coming.

LAW & COURTS

Trump Says Title IX Excludes Trans Girls. The Supreme Court Could Weigh In Next

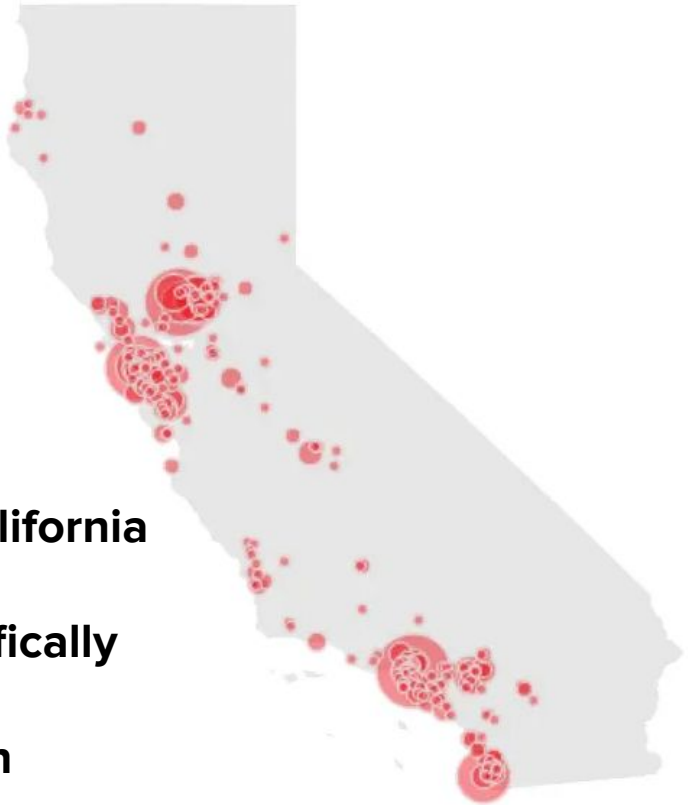
The nation's high court already upheld state laws barring transgender girls from female athletics. It didn't decide the flip side of that issue



By Mark Walsh — October 09, 2026 7 min read

EducationWeek

The political landscape - and rhetoric - has a real impact.



641 in California

191 specifically targeted education

glaad.org:

3382 acts of extremist hate or violence against LGBTQ+ people were reported between 6/1/22 and 12/31/25

California is fighting back...

GOVERNOR NEWSOM SIGNS KEY LGBTQ+ PROTECTIONS INTO LAW

New laws strengthen protections for transgender veterans, patients, conversion therapy survivors, LGBTQ+ students and sensitive LGBTQ+ data while expanding access to HIV prevention

September 26, 2026 at 7:07 pm

EQUALITY CALIFORNIA

Fullerton Union High School
201 East Chapman Avenue
Fullerton, California 92832

TribeTribune

Contact us for
letters to the editor
or advertising info
tribetribunefuhs@fjuhsd.org

People need to realize everything trans people have been going through. They need to see the sheer quantity of anti-trans legislation that keeps being passed across the country. They need to understand how overwhelming it all is…."

- Alicia Bennett, FUHS junior, April 23, 2025

Transgender advocate struggles with news fatigue

Alicia Bennett, Managing Editor • April 23, 2025



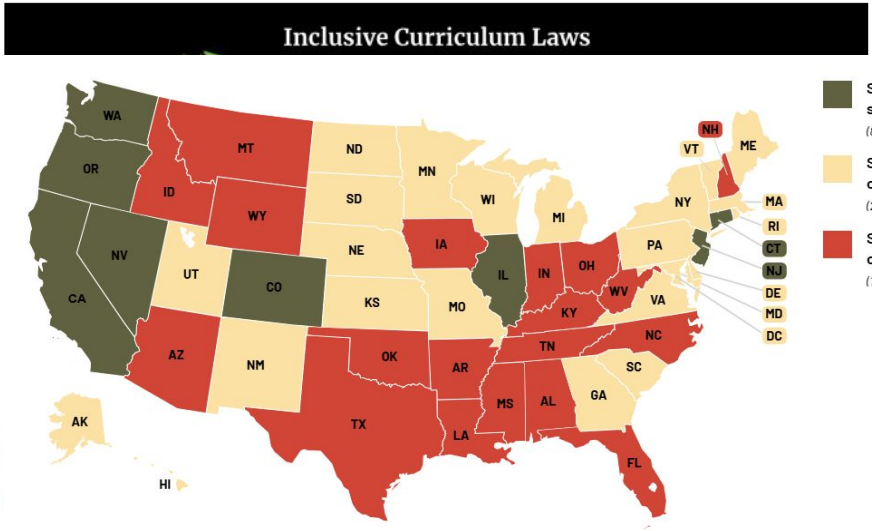
Speaking from the Heart | *In Limbo* | *Transgender Advocate Struggles with News Fatigue*

Impact on Curriculum, Policy & Climate

[Explore resources from Movement Advancement Project]

Even in States Where You're Supposed to 'Say Gay,' Fear Often Outweighs the Law

'Inclusive curriculum' laws are supposed to create welcoming school climates for LGBTQ and other marginalized students. Making it work is really hard



It can feel dehumanizing, as if we are pawns rather than people.



“Part of my identity no longer belongs to me but to the mouths of politicians who weaponize it against each other.”
– *FUHS Junior, Apollo Salazar*

Impact on Mental Health

Research by The Trevor Project (2023) and glisten (2025) shows that these **discriminatory policies leave deep psychological scars on those targeted.**

- 62% of LGBTQ+ young people have experienced harassment or assault based on sexual orientation or gender identity; 27% never reported it to school officials.
- 1 in 3 LGBTQ+ youth said their mental health was poor *most of the time* or *always* due to anti-LGBTQ+ policies and legislation.
- Half of queer and trans youth have seriously considered suicide in the past year. (Trevor Project, 2025)
- More than 70 percent of LGBTQ+ youth experience anxiety and 58 percent report depression.
- 1 in 2 LGBTQ+ youth surveyed were unable to access the mental health care they desperately wanted; sometimes due to parental notification requirements.

But, there's hope: Supportive adults & policies can make a big difference

Research indicates that:

- Supportive educators
- Anti-bullying policies that explicitly mention sexual orientation and gender identity,
- LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum, and
- GSAs or pride alliances

(Trevor Project, 2025)

Lead to:

- A greater sense of belonging,
- Improved mental health,
- Reduced harassment,
- Higher GPAs, and
- Reduced absenteeism. (2025 National School Climate Survey)

What rights do California's LGBTQ+ Students & Educators have?

~500,000 students + 27,000 educators

Safety and Non-Discrimination

Right to non-discrimatory, safe school environments, free of bullying and harassment

Right to Privacy*

Right to disclose, or not disclose, sexual orientation & gender identity (SAFETY Act; local school board policies; Mirabelli v. Bonata is limited in scope)

Curriculum & visibility

Right to learn about and teach LGBTQ+ history
Right to discuss LGBTQ+ topics and identities in school (FAIR Act: Specific curriculum for 2nd & 11th grade; CHYA: Gender- and sexuality-inclusive health education)

Additional Rights

Click for a full list of rights related to health care, employment, housing, child custody, name changes, identification & birth certificates, and more.

What do LGBTQ+ students want from the adults in their worlds?

Affirm and Protect Youth

LGBTQ+ students feel safest when schools take reports of bullying seriously and support their wellbeing alongside academics.

Provide Staff Trainings and Hold Staff Accountable

Schools must have zero tolerance for bigotry from staff, and train staff to support students especially trans, intersex, disabled, and BIPOC youth.

Hold Peers and Families Accountable

Schools should address bullying by peers through accountability, reflection, and family involvement.

Enact Inclusive School Curricula

Schools must adopt curricula that affirm LGBTQ+ and trans identities across multiple subjects.

Support GSAs and Student Organizations

School and staff involvement and support for GSAs are essential.

Clarify and Implement School Policies and Practices

Beyond anti-bullying rules, schools need affirming policies on bathrooms, sports, dress codes, names and pronouns, and disability accommodations.

2025 National School Climate Survey

What Can We Do?

- **Know queer folks are everywhere, and not always visible or vocal**

- **Educate yourself about LGBTQ+ students & experiences, locally & nationally**
  - LGBTQ Center OC [Civic & Community Action]
  - glisten.org (curriculum, policy & advocacy tools)
  - Welcoming Schools
  - Gender Diversity & LGBTQ Inclusion in K-12 Schools
  - Transgender Justice in Schools
  - Know your rights (K-12 | Community College)

- **Be vigilant and use your power!**

What MUST We Do?

- **Normalize queer and trans people, identities & inclusion**

- **Create, demand and protect queer-affirming curriculum, spaces and policies**
  - Example: FAIR Act Inclusive Curriculum
  - Example: Feb 2025 Fullerton School District Resolution

- **Ask questions, often:**
  - When are you teaching about LGBTQ+ history & experiences, as required by CA Ed Code?
  - Where are the gender-neutral bathrooms in this building?
  - Why do you ask about gender identity on this permission slip?
  - Who is the advisor for our school's GSA or pride alliance?
  - What kinds of resources and supports do you have for LGBTQ+ families?

- **Use your privilege & platform to speak up and out. Allies' and adults' silence is deafening.**

Reliable Sources of Current Resources & Policy for California

OFFICIAL GUIDANCE FROM THE CDE

- LGBTQ+ resources for Imperial, Orange & San Diego Counties
- AB 1955 summary & provisions
- CDE / ACSA: updated guidance on gender identity & student records

LEGAL & LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

- ACLU SoCal: Know Your Rights for LGBTQ+ communities
- ACSA: Legislative Lunch Break (parental notification)
- California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus
- CA Office of the AG

FAMILY, SCHOOL & LOCAL SUPPORT

- CTA Resources for Educators
- Exemplary policies: Santa Ana USD & Fullerton SD
- School Health Centers: Supporting immigrant & LGBTQ+ youth

Additional Resources & Ways to Take Action

- glisten's School Board Advocacy Toolkit
- Public School's Defender's Hub (OC Specific)
- Supporters of Public Education OC
- Know Your Rights - Students, Educators & Undocumented Folks
- Allyship 101: Supporting LGBTQI+ Youth from glisten
- Inclusive Policy Recommendations from glisten
- Back to School Tips from glisten
- Equality California Institute: School Report Card
- October is LGBTQ+ History Month – Resources for Educators
- Association of CA School Administrators: Equity & Inclusion Resources

Learn more about & join OCEC! www.ocequality.org

Access today's slides at tinyurl.com/OCECOct11