



## Murphy Administration Sets Guidance for Transgender Students

For Immediate Release

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**Trenton, NJ** - The New Jersey Department of Education today announced comprehensive guidance to help school districts ensure a supportive and nondiscriminatory environment for transgender students.

Over the past year, the Department has met with stakeholders, including educators, parents, advocates, counselors, psychologists and others; researched policies and guidance from other states; and engaged other agencies to develop the guidance.

The Department's guidance addresses the following main areas:

- Definitions and terms;
- Maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment;
- Confidentiality and privacy concerns;
- School records and student identification;
- Use of facilities;
- Participation in activities;
- Formation of clubs or programs for LGBTQ youth; and
- Resources for students, parents and school staff.

"Creating a stronger and fairer New Jersey for every Garden State resident includes ensuring that our transgender students are respected and protected," said **Gov. Phil Murphy**. "New Jersey continues to stand with our LGBTQ community, and that includes the youngest and most vulnerable residents: our children."

"One of the most important factors in ensuring a safe and supportive environment for transgender students is communication between the school and the student," said **Education Commissioner Lamont O. Repollet**. "School district personnel should have an open yet confidential discussion with the student to address matters ranging from privacy concerns to the student's chosen name."

The Department's guidance will provide direction to local boards of education as they update district policies and procedures regarding school records, confidentiality and privacy concerns, participation in school activities, use of facilities, and parental notification. The [full guidance](#) is available online.

"It's the obligation of all educators to provide a safe and welcoming school environment so all students throughout the state can achieve their full potential," said Commissioner Repollet.