

SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS
Resolution No. 2016/17-052

**RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF TRANSGENDER STUDENTS
TO USE THEIR BATHROOM OF CHOICE**

Whereas, the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education is committed to the success of all students irrespective of their immigration status, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability, sex and gender identity, socio-economic status or beliefs.

Whereas, in 2015 and 2016, the U.S. Department of Education ("DOE") and the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") issued policy memoranda regarding transgender students and advised school districts that Title IX provides these students the right to access restroom and locker facilities that conform to their gender identities.

Whereas, on February 22, 2017, under the new Trump administration, the DOE and DOJ issued a joint "Dear Colleague" letter stating that these memoranda were withdrawn "in order to further and more completely consider the legal issues involved" in the wake of recent litigation regarding school restrooms and locker rooms.

Whereas, the February 22, 2017 Dear Colleague letter further states that "this withdrawal of these guidance documents does not leave students without protections from discrimination, bullying, or harassment. All schools must ensure that all students, including LGBT students, are able to learn and thrive in a safe environment."

Whereas, regardless of the recent rescission of the prior memoranda by the DOE and DOJ, the state of California has passed its own protections for transgender students under Education Code section 221.5, which requires that students "be permitted to participate in sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, and use facilities consistent with his or her gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the pupil's records."

Whereas, State Superintendent Tom Torkelson, in a press release issued on February 22, 2017, further affirmed the State of California's commitment to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment for LGBT students; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education directs the Superintendent to continue to support the safe learning environment for its LGBT students, including the right to utilize the restroom or locker room that align with their identified gender, regardless of the rescission of the 2015 and 2016 memoranda and the positions of the Trump administration on this issue.

Passed and Adopted by the Board of Education of the Santa Rosa city Schools on April 12, 2017.

Jenni Klose, President