

Definitions related to Gender Identity (Excerpted from “NJ DOE Transgender Student guidance for school districts”)

Gender Identity means a person's internal, deeply held sense of gender. All people have a gender identity, not just transgender people. For transgender people, the individual's internal gender identity is not the same as the gender assigned at birth.

- **Gender Expression** means external manifestations of gender, expressed through a person's name, pronouns, clothing, haircut, behavior, voice, and/or body characteristics. Society identifies these cues as masculine and feminine, although what is considered masculine or feminine changes over time and varies by culture.
- **Assigned Sex at Birth (ASAB)** refers to the biological sex designation recorded on a person's birth certificate upon the initial issuance of that certificate, should such a record be provided at birth.
- **Gender Assigned at Birth** refers to the gender a child is assigned at birth or assumed to be, based on their biological sex assigned at birth.
- **Sexual Orientation** describes a person's enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to another person. Gender identity and sexual orientation are not the same. A transgender person may be straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or asexual. For example, a person who transitions from male to female and is attracted solely to men may identify as a straight woman.
- **Transgender** is a term for an individual whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from those typically associated with the sex and gender assigned at birth.
- **Transition** is the process by which a transgender person recognizes that their authentic gender identity is not the same as the gender assigned at birth, and develops a more affirming gender expression that feels authentic. Some individuals socially transition, for example, through dress, use of names and/or pronouns. Some individuals may undergo a physical transition, which might include hormone treatments and surgery. School district personnel should avoid the phrase “sex change,” as it is an inaccurate description of the transition process; the process is more accurately described as “gender-confirming.”
- **LGBTQ** is an acronym for “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning.”
- **Gender nonconforming** describes a person whose gender expression does not conform to the gender expectations of their family or community. Gender nonconformity is not necessarily an indication that a youth is transgender; many non-transgender youth do not conform to stereotypical expectations.
- **Gender Expansive/Gender Diverse/Gender Fluid/Gender Non-Binary /Agender/ Gender Queer** are terms that convey a wider, more flexible range of gender identity and/or expression than typically associated with the binary gender system. For example, students who identify as gender queer or gender fluid might not identify as boys or girls; for these students, the non-binary gender identity functions as the student's gender identity.
- **Cisgender** refers to individuals whose gender identity, expression, or behavior conforms with those typically associated with their sex assigned at birth