



movement advancement project ►

LGBTQ Youth: Anti-LGBTQ School Laws

No updates required since July 9, 2021

Anti-Enumeration Laws: These laws prevent schools and districts from listing or enumerating any type of protected classes (such as sexual orientation, gender identity, race, disability, and more) in their anti-bullying or nondiscrimination policies. [Research shows](#) that such generic laws are not effective at protecting marginalized students from bullying or discrimination.

Bans on Transgender Youth Participation in Sports: These laws prevent transgender students from participating in sports according to their gender identity. These laws are tracked on [a separate map](#), but the policies are listed below as well.

“Don’t Say Gay” Laws or Regulations: These policies restrict school teachers and staff from discussing LGBTQ issues and people. These polices are written to bar such discussion within sex education programming, but they are often vaguely written and can be misapplied by schools to limit discussion and inclusion of LGBTQ people and issues in other parts of the curriculum, school events and programs, and even extracurricular activities (e.g., incorrectly interpreted to prohibit Gay-Straight Alliances). For more information, contact [GLSEN](#).

Parental Opt-Out of LGBTQ-Inclusive Curricula: The laws require parents to be notified in advance of any LGBTQ-inclusive curricula and allow parents to opt their children out of these classes. These laws build on existing state laws about parental notification and opt-out for sex education, but the LGBTQ opt-out laws are distinct because they require parental notification and opt-out for *any* LGBTQ-inclusive content, regardless of whether or not in the context of sex education. For more about sex education policy, including parental notification laws, see [SIECUS](#)'s research.

Alabama

- State law **bans transgender students from participating in sports** consistent with their gender identity. See [HB 391](#) (April 2021). Applies to K-12. See separate [map of these laws](#).
- Formerly had “Don't Say Gay” regulation. See [Alabama State Code § 16-40A-2\(c\)\(8\)](#) (1992). Repealed by [HB 385](#) (2021).

Alaska

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Arizona

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations
- Formerly had “Don’t Say Gay” regulation (2012), repealed by [SB 1346](#) (2019).



Arkansas

- State law requires **parental notification of LGBTQ-inclusive curricula** and allows parents to opt children out. See [SB 389](#) (April 2021).
- State law **bans transgender students from participating in sports** consistent with their gender identity. See [HB 1570/SB 354](#) (March 2021). Applies to K-12 and higher education. See separate [map of these laws](#).

California

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Colorado

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Connecticut

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Delaware

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

District of Columbia

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Florida

- State law **bans transgender students from participating in sports** consistent with their gender identity. See [S1028](#) (June 2021). Applies to high school (secondary) and higher education. See separate [map of these laws](#).

Georgia

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Hawai'i

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Idaho

- State law **bans transgender students from participating in sports** consistent with their gender identity. See [HB 500](#) (March 2020). Applies to K-12 and higher education. See separate [map of these laws](#). Currently, a temporary injunction is blocking enforcement of the law, but the case is still active in the court system pending further judicial review. See [Hecox v. Little](#) (August 2020).

Illinois

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Indiana

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations



Iowa

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Kansas

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Kentucky

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Louisiana

- State has “**Don't Say Gay**” regulation. See [La. Rev. Stat. § 17:281A\(3\)](#) (1993).

Maine

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Maryland

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Massachusetts

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Michigan

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Minnesota

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Mississippi

- State has “**Don't Say Gay**” regulation. See [Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-171](#) (1998).
- State law **bans transgender students from participating in sports** consistent with their gender identity. See [SB 2536](#) (March 2021). Applies to K-12 and higher education. See separate [map of these laws](#).

Missouri

- State law **prohibits enumerated anti-bullying and anti-discrimination policies**. See [Mo. Rev. Stat. § 160.775.3](#) (SB 894; 2006).



Montana

- State law requires **parental notification of LGBTQ-inclusive curricula** and allows parents to opt children out. See [SB 99](#) (April 2021).
 - Law is written as requiring parental notification of sex education, but defines sex education to include any information about sexual orientation or gender identity.
- State law **bans transgender students from participating in sports** consistent with their gender identity. See [HB112](#) (May 2021). Applies to K-12 and higher education. See separate [map of these laws](#).

Nebraska

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Nevada

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

New Hampshire

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

New Jersey

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

New Mexico

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

New York

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

North Carolina

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations
- Formerly had “Don’t Say Gay” law, repealed in 2006.

North Dakota

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Ohio

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Oklahoma

- State has “**Don't Say Gay**” regulation. See [Okla. Stat. tit. 70, § 11-103.3\(D\)](#) (1995).

Oregon

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations



Pennsylvania

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Rhode Island

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

South Carolina

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations
- Formerly had “Don’t Say Gay” law ([Act No. 437](#), 1988), repealed by [court settlement](#) (2020).

South Dakota

- State law **prohibits enumerated anti-bullying and anti-discrimination policies**. See [S.D. Codified Laws § 13-32-14](#) (2012).
- State policy, via executive order, **bans transgender students from participating in sports** consistent with their gender identity. See [Executive Order 2021-05](#) (March 2021; K-12) and [Executive Order 2021-06](#) (March 2021; college). See separate [map of these laws](#).

Tennessee

- State law requires **parental notification of LGBTQ-inclusive curricula** and allows parents to opt children out. See [HB 529 / SB 1229](#) (May 2021).
- State law **bans transgender students from participating in sports** consistent with their gender identity. See [SB 228/HB 3](#) (March 2021). Applies to middle and high school (5th-12th grades). See separate [map of these laws](#).

Texas

- State has “**Don't Say Gay**” regulation. See [Texas Health & Safety Code § 85.007](#) (1991).

Utah

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations
- Formerly had “Don’t Say Gay” regulation ([Utah Code § 53A-13-101](#), 2004), repealed by [SB 196](#) (2017).

Vermont

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Virginia

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Washington

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations



West Virginia

- State law **bans transgender students from participating in sports** consistent with their gender identity. See [HB3293](#) (April 2021). Applies to high school and higher education. See separate [map of these laws](#).

Wisconsin

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Wyoming

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

U.S. Territories

American Samoa

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Guam

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Northern Mariana Islands

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

Puerto Rico

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations

U.S. Virgin Islands

- None of these anti-LGBTQ school laws or regulations