

Supporting Transgender Students: Best School Practices for Success

June 20, 2014

- 8:00-8:30 Registration and Breakfast.
- 8:30-8:45 **Dr. Randi Ettner** will discuss what it means to be transgender or gender non-conforming, the gender dysphoria diagnosis, and the standard of care for treating gender dysphoria in children. She also will address the importance of accommodating transgender students' need to socially transition at school and the ways in which refusing to allow a student to transition can cause the student lasting harm. Her presentation draws on her years of experience as a clinician, researcher, expert witness and consultant regarding the accommodation of transgender youth at school.
- 8:45-8:50 **Coriander** is a Chicago Public Schools student who will talk about his experience transitioning at school and the initial challenges he faced in being allowed to present fully as a boy.
- 8:50-9:10 **John Knight** will address the applicable laws that define Illinois schools' legal responsibility to accommodate transgender students, including the First Amendment, the Equal Protection Clause, Title IX, and the Illinois Human Rights Act. He also will explore issues for transgender students that may involve the IDEA, the Rehabilitation Act, and the constitutional and statutory privacy protections in federal and Illinois law. He will review the leading decisions regarding the rights of transgender students to use the bathrooms consistent with their gender identity as well as the arguments schools sometimes make in defense of their refusal to allow transgender students access to bathrooms.
- 9:10-9:20 **Sarah Schriber** will discuss the essential and necessary components of a school policy designed to successfully meet the legal obligations of Illinois schools, and ensure the success of transgender students in our public schools. She also will address how such a policy can be considered and adopted by a local school board in a fashion that not only provides an inclusive discussion, but also provides an opportunity for a community to learn more about gender dysphoria and the need of transgender students to feel safe, secure and welcome in school.

- 9:20-9:30 **David Fischer** will address the importance of diversity training for school staff and students in order to encourage administration, teachers, staff and students to respect transgender and gender non-conforming students, including those who transition at school. He will talk about his experience responding to concerns schools may have about the discomfort students and their parents may express regarding transgender students' use of bathrooms and locker rooms.
- 9:30-10:00 Question and answer session.