



MAMA DRAGONS

Initial Meeting with Your Child's School

Introduction This guide is designed to help parents of gender-diverse or transgender children navigate the initial meeting with their child's school. This meeting is a crucial step in ensuring a supportive and understanding environment for your child. Below is a step-by-step plan to help you communicate effectively with school staff and set clear expectations.

1. Find Out Who Will Be at the Meeting

Before the meeting, ask the school who will be attending. Typical participants may include:

- Principal or Assistant Principal
- School Counselor
- Teachers (especially homeroom or advisory teachers)
- School Nurse
- Any other relevant staff (e.g., LGBTQ+ liaison, social worker)

Understanding who will be present helps you prepare your discussion points and ensures that all key individuals are included.

2. Let the School Know the Purpose of the Meeting

Clearly communicate the purpose of the meeting in advance. You might say: "We would like to discuss how we can work together to support our child's gender identity at school."

This sets the tone and ensures everyone understands the focus of the meeting.

3. Tell the School About Your Child and Their Gender Journey So Far

Share information about your child's gender journey to provide context. Include:

- Your child's preferred name and pronouns
- Key milestones in their gender journey
- Any relevant medical or psychological support your child is receiving

- How your child identifies and their comfort level with their gender identity

This helps school staff understand your child's needs and experiences.

4. Tell the School What Your Concerns Are

Express any specific concerns you have, such as:

- Use of preferred name and pronouns in class and on records
- Bathroom and locker room access
- Participation in sports and extracurricular activities
- Bullying or harassment prevention and response

Be specific about what worries you and your child might have.

5. Share What Experiences Your Child Has So Far with Other Schools

If applicable, share experiences your child has had at other schools. This could include:

- Positive support strategies that worked well
- Challenges or issues faced
- Insights into what might work best for your child in this new environment

This provides a practical reference point for the school.

6. Your Expectations of Your and Your Child's Privacy at School

Clarify your expectations regarding privacy, including:

- How information about your child's gender identity will be handled
- Who needs to know about your child's gender identity
- How to address your child's gender identity in communication with other students and parents

This ensures that your child's privacy is respected and protected.

7. Explain What Your Expectations Are as a Team: Teachers and Administration

Outline your expectations for collaboration, such as:

- Regular updates on your child's well-being and progress

- Open lines of communication for any issues or concerns
- Support for your child from all staff members
- Training for staff on gender diversity and inclusion, if necessary

Express your desire for a partnership that prioritizes your child's safety and well-being.

Conclusion

This meeting is the first step in establishing a positive and supportive environment for your child at school. Remember, you are an advocate for your child's needs and rights. Open, honest