

## **INCLUSIVE FACILITIES**

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is an inclusive facility?**

The Long Beach Unified School District's inclusive facilities are spaces that serve students of all gender identities and expressions, students with disabilities, and students who desire privacy for any number of reasons. Inclusive restrooms and locker rooms can be used by any student regardless of gender identity and expression or physical ability.

#### **Why is LBUSD adding inclusive facilities to schools?**

LBUSD embraces all students and remains committed to affirming a safe, productive learning environment for everyone. Inclusive facilities align with the District's equity and inclusivity values and provide equitable access to school facilities to gender-diverse students and students with disabilities who require the assistance of a caregiver of a different gender.

#### **Are all-gender restrooms and locker rooms safe?**

Student safety and privacy, as well as staff supervision were diligently considered in the design of the District's inclusive facilities. Inclusive facilities can be accessed by staff of any gender, providing schools an increased ability to monitor students and curb the potential bullying and harassment that might occur in single-gender locker rooms and restrooms.

The private stalls in the District's inclusive restrooms and locker rooms are separated with partitions that extend nearly to the ceiling and floor. A one-inch space between the stall door and ground allows staff to check on students regularly and support appropriate behavior. Stalls feature a gap-free design for additional privacy.

Inclusive locker rooms will feature individual restrooms stalls, individual showers, and individual changing stalls. Waist-high lockers in the common areas of inclusive locker rooms provide enhanced student supervision. For increased safety and security, surveillance cameras will be placed near the locker room entrances and exits.

#### **Will students of different genders undress in the same areas in the District's inclusive locker rooms?**

Students will never need to change clothes in the same area in the District's inclusive locker rooms. Inclusive locker rooms will feature individual restrooms stalls, individual showers, and individual changing stalls. Each shower room will include a bench, storage area and sufficient space for a student to shower and change in a single, private stall.

**Can aquatics event spectators access inclusive locker rooms?**

Aquatics event spectators can access the restrooms located inside inclusive locker rooms, but spectators cannot access the locker room area where the individual changing stalls and individual showers are located. A security door separating the restrooms from the individual changing stalls and individual showers will remain locked during aquatics events.

**How was the design of the District's inclusive facilities determined?**

LBUSD's inclusive facilities were designed with input from students, staff and physical education and aquatics coaches from District schools. In focus groups, LBUSD students consistently described feeling uncomfortable in the communal showers and open changing areas found in traditional locker rooms — regardless of the student's gender identity and expression or physical ability. The design of the District's inclusive locker room addresses that concern while supporting staff supervision.

**Our school already has an all-gender restroom for students to use one at a time. Why is another inclusive facility necessary?**

Single-occupancy, all-gender restrooms can magnify the potential for isolation for gender-diverse students and separate them into an "other" category. All-gender facilities provide safe, equitable access to restroom and locker room facilities for all students, regardless of gender identity and expression or physical ability.

**Is the District adding inclusive facilities to all LBUSD schools?**

All future ground-up construction at the District's secondary schools will contain gender-inclusive facilities; middle and high schools with upcoming Measure E renovations may include inclusive facilities. All-gender facilities at District elementary schools are not planned at this time.

**Why are inclusive facilities funded by Measure E?**

The District's Measure E program provides funding for school modernizations, safety improvements, and accessibility upgrades. Inclusive facilities offer students equitable access to up-to-date spaces with greater privacy and enhanced staff supervision, improving student safety. The Measure E ballot presented to voters in 2016 references improvements to bathrooms and physical education facilities. The text from the ballot is available [here](#).