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Did you know that a single suspension in 9th grade [doubles the odds a student won't graduate](#) ^[1] -- and that **LGBT youth are 1.4 times more likely to be suspended** than their straight peers?

Or that many **transgender students are not able to participate in classes required for graduation**, like PE, just because of who they are?

We're working on two bills that will make sure ALL students can fully participate and succeed in school. Join us and take action now!

The first bill, AB 420, will limit the use of "willful defiance" as a reason to suspend or expel students. Around 40% of suspensions involve "willful defiance," a vague, subjective category that's been used to punish everything from a gender nonconforming student breaking the dress code to a lesbian student holding her girlfriend's hand. Suspension takes students away from valuable learning time, making it more difficult for youth to succeed in class and stay in school.

The second bill, AB 1266, will ensure schools understand their responsibility to allow transgender students to fully participate in all school activities, programs, and facilities. In many cases,

transgender students are currently prevented from participating in activities, including classes required for graduation, as themselves.

Call members of the Assembly Education committee before the hearing on April 17th and ask them to support AB 420 and AB 1266.

All students, including LGBTQ students, should have the opportunity to fully participate and succeed in school!

Assembly Education Committee members:

Joan Buchanan, Chair (D-Alamo)

Capitol Office: 916.319.2016

District Office: 925.328.1515

Kristin Olsen, Vice-Chair (R-Modesto)

Capitol Office: 916.319.2012

District Office: 209.576.6425

Nora Campos (D-San Jose)

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District Office: 408.277.1220

Rocky Chavez (R-Oceanside)

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Shirley Weber (D-San Diego)

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Links

[1] <http://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/news/press-releases/2013-press-releases/out-of-school-and-off-track-reports-detail-disturbing-and-increased-use-of-suspensions>