

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Responding to Potential Concerns

### **Will All Student Bathrooms compromise student's safety?**

- Safety always has been and will continue to be a priority. Staff will continue to monitor student behavior and adherence to bathroom rules. Doors to the bathroom may remain open. All Student bathrooms assure safety for all students.
- No one HAS to use the All Student restrooms. Students who prefer gender segregated restrooms will still have that option. Our goal is to provide OPTIONS for ALL, RESTRICTIONS for NONE.

### **Will All Student Bathrooms compromise student's privacy?**

- Privacy always has been and will continue to be a priority. Bathrooms rules and expectations will be communicated and behavior will be monitored closely.
- Work orders will be submitted to the Facilities Department for stalls to be put in place around urinals. We will also request that stall doors be made taller and extended to reach closer to the ground. Stall door locks may be made more functional.
- No one HAS to use the All Student restrooms. Students who prefer gender segregated restrooms will still have that option. Our goal is to provide OPTIONS for ALL, RESTRICTIONS for NONE.

### **Will All Student Bathrooms be dirtier?**

- It may be true that "boys" bathrooms tend to get dirtier than "girls" bathroom, but all children deserve a clean bathroom, whether in gender-segregated or gender-neutral spaces.
- Students will need training and reminders about how to use the bathrooms appropriately. All children should be held to a standard of cleanliness and this training and monitoring is a part of any bathroom configuration.
- No one HAS to use the All Student restrooms. Students who prefer gender segregated restrooms will still have that option. Our goal is to provide OPTIONS for ALL, RESTRICTIONS for NONE.

### **Will it take longer for students who don't want to use All Student Bathrooms?**

- Gender-segregated bathrooms will remain in other areas of the school. It is true that children who prefer this option would need to walk a little further to get to the gender segregated restrooms, but on average, students take 2-3 minutes to use a restroom right by their classroom and 4-5 minutes to use a restroom that is further away.

# Introducing All Student Bathrooms to Students

## What is an All-Student Bathroom? Who is it for?

- A bathroom for all students to use, just like your bathroom at home is for all genders, or your kinder, first and second grade bathrooms were for all genders or the bathroom at Starbucks or Peet's is for all genders.
- All-Student bathrooms are about Being Who You Are, allowing all our friends to be who they are, and not asking a kid to choose a gender that isn't true for them or to have to explain why they are using the bathroom they are using.
- There are more than two genders, which we all have learned and understand. We know that some people don't feel like a girl or a boy. All-Student bathrooms means our friends don't have to make a choice that doesn't feel true for them. All-Student Bathrooms also mean that there is no "right" or "wrong" bathroom for kids to be in.
- Just like toys are just toys and clothes are just clothes, bathrooms are just bathrooms. Everyone should just go in, do their business, and leave.

## What are the rules in All-Student Bathrooms?

- The same as rules for gender-specific bathrooms. **Quick - Quiet - Clean & Respectful**
- 1. Be respectful- make sure to be clean in the bathroom. Make sure to put paper towels in the garbage.
- 2. Be safe- Do not play in the bathroom, do not crawl on or above stalls.
- 3. Be responsible- Report unsafe or disrespectful behavior immediately.
- 4. Be an ally- Encourage fellow students to do the above three.
- Enter the bathroom quietly. Use it. Flush it. Make sure you leave the toilet clean on top and inside. Wash your hands, throw away paper towel, and go back to class or recess.
- Always respect the privacy of others and ourselves. The bathroom is always private. We never share a stall or interrupt the privacy of others.
- (I always do a whole-class tour to the bathroom and talk about all the ways to use the restroom. They get embarrassed, but it's important to point out all the expectations and I find doing it in the actual bathroom makes it all very clear. I have acted out what not to do and have kids correct me. They think this is quite funny, but makes the point.

## How can we make sure that All-Student Bathrooms give kids privacy?

- Do we stand on toilets? Why not? Do we look under the stall doors? Why not?
- How would it feel if you were going to the bathroom and someone looked at you? How can we make sure nobody ever feels that way?
- Really connect to them via empathy. Have them close their eyes and imagine someone opening the door or looking as they are going...nobody likes that. Practice assertiveness imagining this happened. Have each kid in the circle practice saying "I don't like it when you invade my privacy in the bathroom and I want you to STOP."

## How can we make sure that we keep our All-Student Bathrooms clean?

- When you do the tour, ask about how it feels when poop is floating in the toilet or when pee is on the seat. Who likes that? Who wants to sit on a dirty toilet? It is everyone's space, so everyone needs to clean up. Teach them what that looks like. Show them that if it grosses them out, they can flush using their foot carefully. But it **MUST** be flushed and the seat must be wiped down. This is about respecting yourself and others.
- Also introduce the class to the custodians. Explain to them that the messes they don't clean up has to be cleaned up by the custodians. Let's make their job easier, not harder. They do a lot for them, let's return the favor.