

CDC's Handbook for Schools in Matters of Gender Identification

Description

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has come out with a new tool to help school teachers indicate how "LGBTQ inclusive" their classrooms are. The agency has encouraged educators to commit to change if an inclusivity level isn't as high as needed.

It is claimed that approximately 5 percent of **young adults** (1.6 percent of all adults) in the U.S. identify as transgender or nonbinary, that is up from 0.36 percent in 2016.

The CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health announced the self-assessment handbook in a tweet on Tuesday, urging school administrators to undergo the test and "learn ways to increase inclusivity."

The tweet links to a handbook that features a number of statements regarding "inclusivity." Educators are asked to score how much these statements apply to them and what they do. The document also offers a set of changes that teachers could implement based on their self-assessment score.

The highest-scoring participants of the volunteer test are labeled as "awesome allies" while those with a mid-score are ranked as "moderately inclusive" who are "beginning to break through."

As for the lowest-scoring educators, they are deemed "minimally inclusive" and are urged to "commit to change" and provided with a plethora of links and tools to help improve their scores. That includes taking Harvard University's "implicit bias test" and using the so-called "genderbread person" and "gender Unicorn" diagrams.

To achieve the highest score, teachers are asked to agree with a number of statements such as "My classroom or learning space includes visual labels (e.g. rainbow flags, pink triangles, unisex bathroom signs) marking it as a safe space for LGBTQ students."

Participants are also ranked on how much they advocate for LGBTQ issues. According to the handbook, "allies" are expected to correct those around them if they use "outdated, derogatory or harmful language or terminology," advocate for LGBTQ materials in the classroom and participate in their school's Gay Straight Alliance/Genders and Sexualities Alliance.

The last page of the document states that the handbook was published in October 2020, meaning the CDC appears to have been distributing this "self-assessment tool" in US schools for the past two years.