



TO: Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Human Resources Officers
Admissions and Records

FROM: James Todd, Dean
Educational Services and Support, Equitable Student Learning, Experience, and Impact
Cassandra Flandre-Nguyen, President
Student Senate for California Community Colleges

RE: AB 2315 Affirmed Name and Gender Identification Implementation Recommendations

Purpose:

This memorandum aims to outline significant legislation, AB 2315, which focus on creating a more inclusive and supportive campus environment within California Community Colleges by addressing deadnaming issues and accurately reflecting individuals' affirmed names and gender identities in educational records. Additionally, it provides recommendations from the Chancellor's Office for the implementation of key provisions of these bills.

Background:

AB 2315 (2022, Arambula):

AB 2315, passed in September 2022, addresses deadnaming issues—particularly for transgender and gender nonbinary students—within California Community Colleges. This bill added section 66271.41 to the Education Code which states, (e) Notwithstanding any other law in conflict with this subdivision, except Section 67400, a public postsecondary educational institution may use an individual's gender or legal name as indicated in a government-issued identification document only if it is necessary to meet a legally mandated obligation, but otherwise shall identify the individual in accordance with the individual's gender identity and affirmed name. The intent is to foster a more inclusive and supportive campus environment by eliminating systemic deadnaming. Key provisions include:

1. **Implementation of Systems:** Mandating each community college district to establish a system allowing individuals to declare their affirmed name and gender identity.
2. **Record Updates:** Requiring campuses to update records upon request to include affirmed names and gender identification in various documents such as school-issued email addresses, identification cards, class rosters, transcripts, and diplomas.
3. **Timeline:** Starting from the 2023–24 academic year, community college campus systems should be fully capable of allowing individuals to declare their affirmed name and gender identification.

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4. **Fee Regulation:** Community college campuses are prohibited from charging higher fees for correcting, updating, or reissuing documents or records based on the declaration of an affirmed name or gender identification compared to the fees charged generally for such services.

Recommendations:

It is therefore important that colleges meet the statutory obligation of the section code, 66271.41. While many colleges offer affirmed name and/or pronoun options during initial student registration, equitable access to academic update forms for post-registration name or gender changes may be lacking.

In accordance with AB 2315, the Chancellor's Office recommends that California Community Colleges:

- Provide a clear process, potentially including a form, for students and employees to update their preferred names without requiring legal documentation.
- Ensure access to post-registration name and gender change forms, available online, in-person, accessible, and in alternative formats for students who need them.
- Actively outreach to students with a name and/or gender change to inform them of additional no-cost changes they can make to their student ID card, transcript, college-issued student email address, and class roster without legal documentation.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Kati Kouklis (KKouklis@CCCCO.edu) or Julie Olson (JOlson@CCCCO.edu).

cc: Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy, Vice Chancellor
Educational Services and Support

John Stankas, Vice Chancellor
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