



MAMA DRAGONS

# Finding the Right College for Your Gender-Expansive Kid

## Introduction

Choosing a college is a significant decision for any family, but it can be particularly challenging for families with gender-expansive children. This guide provides insights into the importance of finding the right college, avoiding assumptions based on location, and questions to ask to ensure the college is safe and inclusive for your child.

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## Importance of Finding the Right College

### Safe and Inclusive Environment

- **Emotional Well-Being:** A supportive environment is crucial for the mental health and academic success of gender-expansive students.
- **Academic Success:** Students who feel safe and supported are more likely to thrive academically.

### Avoiding Assumptions Based on Location

- **Research is Key:** Progressive policies and inclusive environments can be found in unexpected places. Don't assume a college's location dictates its level of support.
  - **Campus Climate:** Investigate the specific policies and culture of each campus rather than relying on regional stereotypes.
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## Questions to Ask Colleges

### General Inclusion

1. **LGBTQ+ Support Services:** What services and resources are available for LGBTQ+ students?
2. **Non-Discrimination Policies:** Does the college have policies that explicitly protect gender identity and expression?

## Housing and Facilities

3. **Inclusive Housing Options:** Are there gender-inclusive housing options available?
4. **Restroom Accessibility:** Are there gender-neutral restrooms and locker rooms on campus?

## Health and Counseling Services

5. **Medical and Mental Health Services:** Are there healthcare providers knowledgeable about transgender health needs?
6. **Counseling Support:** Are counselors trained to support gender-expansive students?

## Campus Culture

7. **Student Organizations:** Are there active LGBTQ+ student organizations?
8. **Events and Programs:** Does the college host events and programs that promote LGBTQ+ awareness and inclusion?

## Academic and Administrative Support

9. **Name and Gender Changes:** How does the college handle name and gender marker changes in student records?
  10. **Faculty Training:** Are faculty and staff trained on LGBTQ+ issues and inclusive practices?
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## Conclusion

Finding the right college for your gender-expansive child involves thorough research and asking the right questions. By focusing on policies, campus culture, and available resources, you can help ensure that your child finds a supportive and inclusive environment where they can thrive academically and personally.

## References:

1. [Campus Pride](#)
2. [Human Rights Campaign](#)