

# RESULTS OF THE 2016 MINNESOTA STUDENT SURVEY

Minnesota Department of Education [[Link](#)]

- **Transgender Students Are Less Likely to Feel Safe in School** – In 2016, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students who identified as transgender were less likely to feel safe in school, more likely to be bullied weekly or more, and more likely to attempt suicide than students from other demographic groups. The only other demographic groups with similarly high numbers were lesbian and gay students.
- **More than Half of All Transgender Students, and Lesbian and Gay Students, in Minnesota Have Attempted Suicide** – More than half of all Minnesota transgender students (55 percent) and lesbian/gay students (54 percent) have attempted suicide in the past year, compared to fewer than one-in-five cisgender/heterosexual students.

<b>I feel safe in school (strongly agree or agree).</b>	
Transgender Children	77.5 percent
Lesbian/Gay Children	82.2 percent
Cisgender Children	93.2 percent
Heterosexual Children	93.7 percent

<b>Bullied in any way during the last month.</b>	
Transgender Children	36 percent
Lesbian/Gay Children	29.7 percent
Cisgender Children	15.2 percent
Heterosexual Children	14.2 percent

<b>Has ever attempted suicide (either in the past year, prior to the past year, or both).</b>	
Transgender Children	55.4 percent
Lesbian/Gay Children	54 percent
Cisgender Children	18.8 percent
Heterosexual Children	16.3 percent

The [Minnesota Student Survey \(MSS\)](#) is one of the longest running youth surveys in the nation. It is a triennial survey that began in 1989. The survey is an anonymous statewide school-based survey conducted to gain insights into the world of students and their experiences. The survey asks students about their activities, opinions, behaviors and experiences. Students respond to questions on school climate, bullying, out-of-school activities, health and nutrition, emotional and mental health, relationships, substance use and more. Questions about sexual behaviors are asked only of ninth and eleventh grade students. All responses are anonymous. The MSS can be administered to fifth, eighth, ninth and eleventh grade students in public schools, charter schools, Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) tribal schools and non-public schools. It is also offered to students in alternative learning centers and juvenile correctional facilities. In 2016, 282 of 330 school districts (85.5 percent) participated in the survey consisting of nearly 169,000 students.