

California law establishes all-gender restroom signage requirements

By Bryan Moffitt, SIA ADA Specialist

Under new law effective March 1, 2017, all gender-specific single-user restrooms at school and district facilities are to be converted to unisex/all-gender restrooms. The existing accessible door and wall signage are to be removed and replaced with gender-neutral signage.

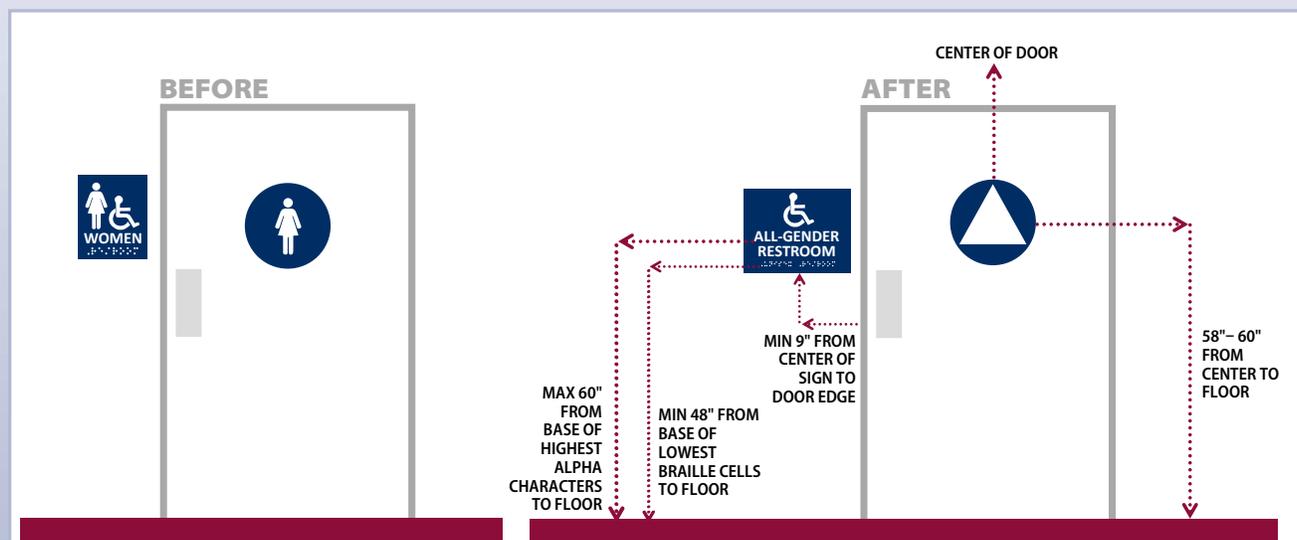
The updated signage regulations were prompted by the passage of Assembly Bill 1732 (Ting, Chapter 818, Statutes of 2016) that was signed into California law in September 2016. This law updates the California Health and Safety Code to require that all single-user restroom facilities be identified as all-gender toilet facilities. The law is applicable to schools, community colleges, business establishments, and state and local government agencies. The California Division of State Architect (DSA) will incorporate plan check review for

this signage in all new construction and alteration projects involving single-user restroom facilities beginning March 1.

The DSA office has published DSA Bulletin 17-01 to provide guidance to school districts regarding the newly created all-gender signage rules for single-user restrooms at school facilities. The Bulletin, released in January 2017, is titled *Identification of Single-User Toilet Facilities as All-Gender*. The document includes detailed information for the new requirements, which meet both the 2016 CBC Title 24 accessibility standards for restroom signage and the provisions for all-gender signage.

For door signage, this will mean the same geometric light-on-dark triangle superimposed on a circle signage that contrasts with the door color currently used for

(continued on page 2)



Example of single-user restroom signage conversion to all-gender.



SIA introduces a mobile app to help prevent bullying

STOPit!
mobile app

SIA is pleased to announce a new benefit for our member districts. It's called STOPit! – a bullying reporting app and incident-management system. The STOPit mobile app provides a safe, anonymous and easy way for students to share information with you so that you can provide help.

STOPit! helps schools address such issues as bullying, cyber bullying, violence, inappropriate student-teacher relationships, hazing, drugs and alcohol presence, self-harm and issues that can negatively impact the learning environment. Administrators will be equipped to efficiently and effectively manage an incident's full life-cycle. Designated site staff will receive real-time alerts and will be able to respond or ask further questions to better investigate.

In addition to the reporting and messaging platform, schools have found that just having the app is a powerful deterrent to inappropriate behavior. Students can:

- **Report incidents anonymously**
- **Submit photo or video evidence**
- **Communicate anonymously with administrators via STOPit Messenger**

- **Stand up for themselves and their peers without risk of reprisal**

To help administrators, the program offers a simple, time-saving and comprehensive incident-management system called DOCUMENTit.

Highlights include:

- **Real-time email and SMS alerts of new incidents and messages**
- **Follow-up with incident submitters to ask questions or get more information**
- **Notification of patterns or problems with custom alerts**
- **Cloud-based secure evidence storage**
- **Actionable data in the Reports dashboard**
- **Time- and date-stamped audit trail of all activity to be investigated**

SIA is excited about this new service and we look forward to working with your district to ensure its success. For additional information, please contact Rick Jenkins at rjenkins@sia-jpa.org.

All-gender restroom signage requirements *(continued from page 1)*

accessible unisex restrooms. However, DSA advises against the use of pictograms or other gender-identifying information and also clarifies that this information is not required for door signage in the 2016 CBC Chapter 11B accessibility building standards.

Restrooms with existing tactile Braille wall signage will also need to be replaced with signage that contains gender-neutral terms such as "All-Gender," "Restroom" or "Unisex Restroom." SIA recommends the inclusion of the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) on wall signage for restrooms that meet the plumbing elements and facilities accessibility standards contained in CBC Part 2 Chapter 11B Division 6. Most school districts have at least some school buildings and facilities whose original construction predates the adoption

of the state CBC and federal ADA accessibility building standards. These schools commonly have a mix of both recently renovated and older single-user restrooms that are not consistent with the accessibility standards. The addition of the ISA on adjacent wall signage, where appropriate, is important in identifying those restrooms that are accessible for users with disabilities.

Existing unisex restrooms with appropriate door and wall signage consistent with the CBC Chapter 11B standards do not appear to have further requirements at this time. Although male and female pictograms on unisex restroom signage are not encouraged or advisable under the new rules, they are not specifically prohibited. However, per Bulletin

(continued on page 4)



Designed with school district leaders in mind.

Being responsive, not reactionary, is more productive

You'll stay more firmly in control of your emotions, your team and your schedule if you change your management style from reactionary to responsive. What's the difference? Reacting means jumping in before you've thought through the situation. Responding means waiting until you've taken in the situation and formed a plan.

Here's how best to respond vs. react:

- **Remember the big picture; don't overlook your overall goals and objectives.** Consider how the current situation fits into the big picture and you'll find it easier to respond appropriately.
- **Put it in context.** What's happening on your team and throughout your district? Make sure that your next step benefits you, your site, the district and everyone involved.
- **Don't favor emotion over logic.** But don't focus on logic alone, either. The best decisions come from a blend of gut reaction and facts. Balance your immediate visceral response with the information you need to fill critical blanks.



- **Recognize choices.** When you react immediately, you often don't realize that you have more than one good option. If you take time to analyze the situation, you'll realize that you always have choices. Consider them and their likely consequences before you act.

Source: Communication Briefings

A checklist for school year wrap-up celebrations

As you and your students plan your year-end celebrations, precautions should be taken to keep the activities safe for all. If a party is sanctioned, advertised or associated with the school in any way, please keep the following in mind:

- **Provide enough trustworthy adult supervision for the size of the group.**
Adults may need district clearance prior to the event.
- **Ensure that all student participants have signed permission forms prior to participating.**



- **If your event is accessible to other members of the public,** request that supervisors pay extra attention to the location of students in relation to those not associated with the activity.
- **Absolutely no alcohol on the premises.**
- **If activities are to be in and around a lake, pond, pool or other water feature,** ensure that there is a lifeguard present or an adult with current water rescue and CPR training.
- **Some special events require additional liability coverage.** Check with your district or SIA for additional information. Special event coverage requires a two-week notice.





Use WeTip to curb campus vandalism

If your campus experiences any damage from vandalism, remember to promote the WeTip hotline as a resource. Students or neighbors may have information on who did the damage, but also may be hesitant to reveal the information for fear of retaliation. The hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year round. Individuals who contact WeTip are totally anonymous. There's no tracing of calls or any way to identify those who make the calls. Information can be shared without fear of being identified.

For more information about the program or to obtain WeTip promotional materials, contact your district's WeTip liaison or Teresa Franco at SIA at (916) 364-1281 or tfranco@sia-jpa.org.



Reminder: A heat illness prevention plan is a must

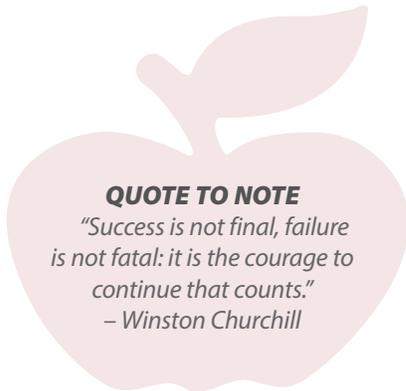
The California Code of Regulations requires all employers to have a heat illness prevention plan. Review your district's plan and procedures with your staff, especially those who work in the heat. There are helpful materials on SIA's website, including a heat illness prevention plan template, training materials, poster order requests and more. Visit www.sia-jpa.org and go to the Resources/ Training Toolbox page.



All-gender restroom signage requirements *(continued from page 2)*

17-01, DSA will require this signage to be replaced in conjunction with plan check reviews during future new construction or alteration work that has those restroom facilities within the scope of the project.

The new all-gender signage is required to meet the existing installation requirements under the 2016 CBC Chapter 11B accessibility standards. Detailed graphics illustrating the correct position for both restroom door and wall signage are available on the SIA website at www.sia-jpa.org. The DSA Bulletin 17-01 is available at https://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/bulletins/BU_17-01.pdf. For questions or more information, contact ADA Specialist Bryan Moffitt at bmoffitt@sia-jpa.org.



QUOTE TO NOTE

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."
– Winston Churchill

*The material in this newsletter should be part of your Injury and Illness Prevention Plan (IIPP).
Keep a copy of this newsletter in your IIPP binder.*



www.sia-jpa.org

©2016-17

printed on recycled paper

RISK REVIEW is published by the Schools Insurance Authority, P.O. Box 276710, Sacramento, CA 95827-6710, (916) 364-1281, 1-877-SIA-KIDS. The SIA is a joint powers authority, composed of 36 members, that collectively provides workers' compensation, liability, property, and health benefit insurance coverage on behalf of its member districts. The SIA school districts are: Arcohe, Atwater, Buckeye, Camino, Center, Central Sierra ROP, El Dorado Co. Off. Ed., El Dorado High, Elk Grove, Elverta, Folsom-Cordova, Galt Elem., Galt High, Gold Oak, Gold Trail, Hayward, Indian Diggings, Kings Canyon, Latrobe, Merced City, Mother Lode, Natomas, North Bay SIA, Pioneer, Placerville, Pollock Pines, Rescue, River Delta, Robla, Sac. City, Sac. Co. Off. Ed., San Juan, Shasta-Trinity SIG, Silver Fork, Twin Rivers, and Woodland. SIA Officers: Executive Director – Martin Brady; President – David Roth, Buckeye Union SD; Vice President – Scott Nelson, Elk Grove USD; Secretary – Robbie Montalbano, El Dorado COE; Prevention Services Manager/Communications – Lisa Tremewan-Konarski; Newsletter: Vitali-Gage Communications, Inc.