



Transgender School Policy: A Threat to Student Privacy, Safety and Dignity

WHAT'S AT STAKE

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Student Privacy

- Every student has the right to expect that his or her bodily privacy, safety, dignity, and equal opportunity will be protected at school.
- Public schools have the responsibility to protect these interests for all students – not just a few.
- It's not in children's and families' best interest that radical new policies, altering long-standing biologically based societal norms, be tested in our schools using our children as subjects. This is true both for students who struggle with gender issues, and for those who don't.
- It's common sense – biological boys should not be allowed to enter private spaces where biological girls may be exposed or engaged in private bodily activities – and vice-versa.

Title IX

- Regulations of Title IX of the federal Education Amendments Act recognize this common-sense principle. Those regulations authorize separate restrooms, showers, and locker rooms for the different biological sexes to protect each student's bodily privacy, safety, and dignity.
- Title IX was passed in 1972 to ensure fairness and equal opportunities for biological females, primarily in sports, due to the biological differences between the sexes. The irony is that the same laws created to ensure fairness for girls in sports are now being used against them.
- Allowing biological boys to play on biological girls' sports teams is unfair and poses physical risks to girls, particularly at the middle-school and high-school levels.
- The City Schools of Decatur (CSD) proposed transgender policy violates Title IX by creating a hostile environment in schools where students fear that their privacy, safety, dignity, and equal opportunity may be violated.

Parental Rights

- Parents have the right to protect and teach their children about such sensitive issues as the differences between the sexes and the exposure of their bodies to members of the opposite sex.
- No school should impose a policy that violates the privacy, safety, and dignity of students, or be able to indoctrinate students on such intimate matters, especially against the will of parents.

First Amendment Rights

- The CSD proposed transgender policy violates religious freedoms for those whose tenets of faith require privacy and modesty based on biological sex in intimate settings such as bathrooms, changing rooms, and sleeping quarters on field trips.
- This policy threatens the freedom of speech of CSD staff and other students who may misidentify a student based on appearance or prior references.

Racial Insensitivity

- Attempting to justify a transgender policy by analogizing separate facilities for the biological sexes to Jim Crow racial segregation is deeply offensive. While there is no justification to segregate bathrooms or locker rooms based on the mere color of one's skin, Title IX recognizes the appropriateness of separate facilities based on innate biological differences between the sexes.
- It is wrong to hijack the civil-rights struggles of African-Americans to justify a transgender agenda in our schools, and it grossly demeans parents seeking to protect the privacy, safety, dignity, and equal opportunity of their children as hateful bigots.

Common-sense Solution

- While schools should treat all students with compassion, schools should not be putting the personal perspectives of a few students over the need for privacy, safety, dignity, and equal opportunity of all other students.
- We support a common-sense compromise accommodating the unique and special needs of the few students presenting with gender dysphoria, and any other different needs, with private toileting and changing facilities (as originally recommended by the Superintendent).
- Schools should not be transformed by adult activists into a political battleground that promotes a genderless society and pits our students against each other. Doing so harms students and families.