



June 26, 2024

Dear Superintendent,

We, the undersigned, are writing to express our profound disappointment and strong condemnation of the state administration's active refusal to accept Title IX protections as interpreted by the federal government and its relentless audacity to challenge the law in court at the expense of the people of Texas. Enforcing Title IX is a necessary step to uphold the law's fundamental principle and within the spirit of its original intent.

Since its inception in 1972, Title IX has been a cornerstone of educational equity, designed to protect all students, not just cisgender girls and women, from discrimination based on sex. This federal law has played a crucial role in ensuring that every student, regardless of gender identity or expression, can pursue their education in a safe and inclusive environment.

The new guidelines were updated in order to clarify, and thus fully effectuate, the existing protections under Title IX, ensuring that all students, including transgender and gender expansive individuals, are shielded from the very discrimination that school districts and our state as a whole have pushed with increasing frequency and scope in recent years.

Recently, Texas has wasted taxpayer dollars on frivolous federal lawsuits aiming to narrow the scope of Title IX protections. Specifically, Texas is trying to sidestep Title IX nondiscrimination protections at the expense of LGBTQIA+ students, which defies the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020), and the consensus among other federal courts, such as *Whitaker v. Kenosha Unified School District No. 1*, 858 F.3d 1034 (7th Cir. 2017).

Even as discriminatory and politicized efforts to challenge federal regulations continue in court, we recognize that Title IX itself and the U.S. Constitution protect every person from sex discrimination, including LGBTQIA+ Texans. We vehemently oppose the growing efforts to limit the rights of LGBTQIA+ students, and the colossal waste of state resources that have been used to push a hateful and discriminatory agenda, instead of complying with the text and spirit of federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination for all.

Texas's onslaught of discriminatory laws and executive actions target some of the most vulnerable students in our community, undermining their rights and well-being, despite deserving equal protection and the same opportunities as peers.

These flippant actions foment a discriminatory political climate in Texas, where school districts have recently adopted or proposed resolutions rejecting Title IX protections and are even discussing the possibility of rejecting federal funding to uphold unnecessary bigotry and prejudice against their students. This culture of discrimination harkens back to a time when state leaders vigorously opposed the Civil Rights Movement and continues Texas's dark legacy of engaging in intentional and explicit discrimination. These actions also inspire teachers and students to bully and harass their peers, and render our entire state less free, less fair, and less welcoming.

We urge you and colleagues, as district officials and school board trustees, to recognize the harm that actions against Title IX will cause students across Texas, especially our most vulnerable. It is your duty to create an inclusive and protective educational environment for all students, regardless of gender identity or expression.

We call on you and school districts statewide to support and uphold Title IX in its true spirit, ensuring that every student in Texas is afforded the dignity, respect, and protection they deserve.

**Sincerely,**

Students Engaged in Advancing Texas (SEAT)	Interfaith Alliance	Texas LULAC
Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT)	Keshet	ADL Texas
American Civil Liberties Union of Texas (ACLU)	Asian Texans for Justice	Katy Lions Foundation
Texas Freedom Network	Every Texan	Texas GSA Leo Club
Equality Texas	Texas Freedom to Read Project	AliefVotes
Human Rights Campaign (HRC)	Parents of Trans Youth	Somos Spring Branch
GLAAD	Texas Association for Diversity in Higher Education (TADOHE)	The Woodlands Pride
Texas State Teachers Association	Texas Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-TX)	Katy Pride
Texas AFT	El Paso Genders & Sexualities Alliance Board	Community Voices for Public Education (CVPE)
IDRA	Black Brown Dialogues on Policy	Resource Center
The Trevor Project	Woori Juntos	
Know Your IX, a project of Advocates for Youth		
Texas Students for DEI		
Defense of Democracy		