

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kennewick School Board Files Federal Complaint and Urges Federal Intervention to Uphold Title IX and Safeguard Student Rights

Kennewick, WA — The Kennewick School Board has filed a formal Title IX Civil Rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, citing serious legal violations by Washington State officials, including Superintendent Chris Reykdal, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA).

The complaint outlines how state-mandated policies—particularly those allowing biological males to compete in girls’ sports and use female locker rooms—directly violate federal law, undermine Title IX, and jeopardize critical federal funding.

Fairness in Girls’ Sports Undermined

The state’s reckless policies allow biological males to compete against female athletes, directly violating federal law, and stripping young women of the opportunity to compete on a fair playing field. The consequences are undeniable: last year, a high school male athlete in Washington State stole the 2A girls’ state track title, unfairly altering the championship outcome and this athlete continues competing today.

“This is not equality—it’s erasure,” said Board Vice President Micah Valentine. “Girls are losing titles, scholarships, and opportunities because state officials refuse to follow federal Title IX. I will not stand by while our girls are robbed of their opportunities and forced into unsafe environments.”

Parents Cut Out—Students Put at Risk

The complaint also raises concern over OSPI’s statewide gender-inclusive guidance to schools and the Washington State School Directors’ Association (WSSDA) model policy and procedure, which schools are required to follow. This policy and procedure blocks schools from notifying parents about a child’s gender identity decisions, erodes the trust between schools and parents, and unreasonably infringes on the precious fundamental right of parents in guiding their children’s development.

Call for Immediate Federal Action

The Board is urging the U.S. Department of Education to:

- Affirm that executive orders federally preempt conflicting state policies.
- Confirm that the district’s adherence to Title IX will not result in a loss of federal funding.
- Investigate discriminatory practices imposed by OSPI and WIAA.

“We will not stand by while our State’s Superintendent refuses to comply with Title IX under his false legal theories that the word “sex” in Title IX means “gender identity,” as this theory undermines student rights and threaten our schools,” said Board President Gabe Galbraith. “This Board is committed to following the law, protecting fairness, and defending our community’s values.”

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