

# Title IX's 53rd Anniversary

[Title IX](#), a landmark federal civil rights law passed on June 23, 1972, guarantees all students – no matter their gender – equal opportunities in schools.

The law was created to address longstanding disparities in education that harm women and girls, many of which still continue today, including rampant sexual harassment, inequitable athletic facilities, uniforms, and equipment for women and girls sports teams, pregnant students being pushed out of school, and underrepresentation in certain educational fields. Yet, since the beginning of his second term, President Trump and his administration have prioritized [weaponizing Title IX](#) as a tool to harm transgender women and girls and unraveled existing protections, while utterly ignoring actual, ongoing sex discrimination in education.

All students deserve to have the freedom to learn and be themselves without fear of harassment or discrimination, and the administration's current misuse of Title IX hurts all students.

The law was intended to ensure schools are more inclusive and equitable so that all students can succeed — this includes students who are LGBTQIA+, pregnant, parents, athletes, and survivors of sex-based harassment.

## Here are some primary ways Title IX has helped all students succeed:

- **INCLUSIVE SPORTS POLICIES:** Title IX requires schools to ensure equal opportunities for women and girls to play sports, access athletic scholarships, and have school resources equitable to those provided for men and boys' sports teams, including sports equipment, facilities, fields, and uniforms. Title IX also prohibits discrimination against trans, nonbinary, and intersex student athletes.
- **STUDENT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND OTHER SEX-BASED HARASSMENT:** Title IX was enacted to ensure students equal educational opportunities. This means [schools must respond](#) to sex-based harassment complaints, including sexual assault, so that students have the support they need to learn safely. Sex-based harassment in schools is a serious civil rights issue that is exceedingly common yet vastly underreported in both K-12 schools and higher education.
- **PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS:** Title IX ensures that pregnant and parenting students have access to equal education opportunity, which includes the right to stay in their classes. Despite [earning higher GPAs](#) than their non-parenting peers, pregnant and parenting students frequently come under immense pressure from unsupportive educators and institutional barriers to drop classes or withdraw from school entirely.

- **LGBTQIA+ STUDENTS:** Title IX guarantees the rights of LGBTQIA+ students to come to school as themselves without fear of harassment or discrimination. The Supreme Court recognized in *Bostock v. Clayton County* that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity **is** sex-based discrimination, and many federal courts have since applied *Bostock* to Title IX. As many courts have also recognized, trans, nonbinary, and intersex students have the right to, among other things, use bathrooms and locker rooms in accordance with their gender identity and without fear of discipline, harassment, or violence.

## Here are primary examples of how the Trump administration has undermined Title IX since taking office:

- **OBSESSED OVER ATTACKING TRANS PEOPLE AND RESTRICTING WOMEN:** Trump [signed an executive order](#) on his first day in office that narrowly defined sex, unmistakably attempting to erase legal protections for transgender, intersex and nonbinary people. (Read the [letter](#) NWLC and more than 170 organizations wrote in response.) Trump later signed an executive order to unlawfully ban transgender women and girls from competing in women's and girls' sports.
- **WATERED DOWN PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENT SURVIVORS:** The Trump administration reinstated its 2020 Title IX rule that significantly weakened protections for student survivors and allowed schools to ignore complaints of harassment. Among other things, the 2020 Title IX rule imposed greater burdens for sexual harassment investigations by schools, such as requiring sexual assault survivors to undergo direct cross-examination at live hearings by anyone their harasser chooses.
  - In February and March of 2025, NWLC [filed to intervene](#) in two different lawsuits to revive the Biden administration's 2024 Title IX rule protections for student survivors that replaced the 2020 Title IX rule.
- **RESCINDED TITLE IX GUIDANCE PROTECTING COLLEGE WOMEN ATHLETES:** The Department of Education [rescinded Title IX guidance](#) clarifying how Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) payments may be treated as financial assistance for student athletes and subject to Title IX's requirements for proportional distribution of such payments based on gender.
- **LEAD DISCRIMINATORY INVESTIGATIONS:** The Departments of Justice and Education in April 2025 announced the creation of a Title IX "special investigations team" to prioritize using its scant resources (due to massive layoffs and cuts by the Trump administration) toward investigating schools with trans inclusive policies, framing it as a way to protect cisgender girls and women. (Read NWLC's response [statement](#).)
- **UNDOING TITLE IX REGULATIONS:** In May 2025, the administration quietly moved to gut Department of Energy Title IX regulatory protections that increase athletic opportunities for girls and women and that allow schools to have programs for women and girls to increase their representation in fields where they are underrepresented due to historical educational barriers. NWLC [submitted comments](#) opposing these rules.