



Columbus Board of Education
Jennifer A. Adair - President

Columbus City Schools
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Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.

Ohio House of Representatives
Higher Education Committee
House Bill 183
Jennifer Adair, Columbus Board of Education President
October 11, 2023

Chair Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Higher Education Committee, my name is Jennifer Adair and I am the President of the Columbus Board of Education. I am writing on my own behalf.

Today, I join fellow school and community leaders to oppose House Bill 183, which would require schools and institutes of higher education to designate certain facilities, including restrooms, for single-sex use based on the sex listed on a person's official birth record.

I urge you to vote no on this legislation and allow local districts and institutes of higher education to develop policies that ensure all students are provided with a safe, supportive, and equitable educational environment.

Diversity is the greatest strength of Columbus City Schools. This is why we came together with our students, staff and community to create the [Portrait of a Graduate and Strategic Priorities](#). We strive to ensure equitable outcomes for all students and employees, to create communities that promote excellence, personal and professional growth, and a culture of belonging. We believe in creating safe spaces for both our students and our staff, and our qualified and State licensed teachers are passionate about educating every student every day.

The district is committed to ensuring that all its students, including transgender and gender variant (GV) students, are provided a safe, supportive, and equitable educational environment that is free from discrimination and harassment based on a student's actual or perceived sex, gender identity, gender expression, and nonconformity to gender stereotypes. It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment.

The Columbus City Schools policy states:

In determining which gender-segregated school facilities are to be used by transgender or GV students, the school administrator shall take into consideration the needs/requests of the individual transgender or GV student and the student's parents as well as the privacy interests of other students. For transgender and GV students, building principals will work with students and parents/guardians on an

The Columbus City School District does not discriminate based upon sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, ancestry familial status or military status with regard to admission, access, treatment or employment. This policy is applicable in all district programs and activities.

individual basis. In addition to having the transgender or GV student use the facilities corresponding with the gender identity, potential accommodations include the use of single-user restrooms or changing spaces or using facilities at a different time than other students. If the desired use by the transgender or GV student is in significant conflict with the privacy interests of other students, the school administrator should consult with the superintendent and as appropriate with legal counsel ([po5517.02](#)).

The proposed restrictions in HB 183 deny local school districts the ability to develop community supported policies related to this issue and are contrary to Columbus City Schools policy to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and harassment.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Adair, President
Columbus Board of Education
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