



TITLE IX 101

Gender discrimination holds us all back. Girls Inc. is committed to advancing the rights and opportunities of girls and young women, with a particular focus on the needs of girls from low-income communities and girls who face multiple, intersectional challenges. Informed by the voices and experiences of girls themselves, we advocate with and for girls to break through the barriers they face and to reform systems that impede their success.

Despite the huge advances schools have made in the 50 years since the passage of Title IX in the United States, many challenges to equity in education remain. We can no longer deny the fact that **sexual harassment and violence are a reality for youth, particularly girls**. Gender stereotyping and other subtle forms of discrimination persist at all levels of education. **It's important for today's girls to understand the significance of Title IX so they can advocate to keep it strong, protect it from attacks, and elect leaders who support it.** In addition to being fierce advocates for eliminating barriers to opportunities for girls and young women, we also must be **advocates for safe and supportive school climates** that are conducive to learning and affirming environments and that respect the dignity of every individual regardless of their gender, sexual identity, or sexual expression. [#GirlsToo](#) | [Girls Inc](#)

Girls Inc. believes **all girls have the right to an education free from sex-based discrimination and harassment**. While Girls Inc. recognizes that Title IX's work is not done, students' rights can't wait. Students are entitled to a fair and transparent Title IX rule that allows them to remain in the classroom and receive the support they deserve. In October 2021, Girls Inc. joined some of our Title IX coalition partners to deliver a petition with 55,000 signatures to the Department of Education, urging them to accelerate their timeline for revision of the harmful Title IX sexual harassment rules issued by the Trump Administration and the need for swift action.

Nine Things to Know About Title IX

Title IX is a federal law, established in 1972, that prohibits sex discrimination in all education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.¹

Title IX applies to all public and charter K-12 schools, some private K-12 schools, and nearly all colleges and universities.²

Title IX also prohibits discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation, which is important for students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) and pregnant and parenting students.³

Because of Title IX, women's contributions in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) have expanded the country's innovation workforce.

Since Title IX, female participation at the high school level has grown by 1057 percent.⁴

Since Title IX, female participation in high school athletics increased from 294,015 in 1972 to 3.4 million in 2019, a number that continues to grow each year according to the Women's Sports Foundation.⁵

Both interest and achievement in STEM are at an all-time high among high school girls, with females participating in more STEM activities and earning higher grades in these fields than their male peers.⁶

Students are empowered through Title IX, which requires the school to take immediate action to eliminate harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects.⁷

If you file a complaint with the school, regardless of where the incident occurred, your school must process your complaint under its grievance procedures. This is particularly important as students and schools adjust to online learning.⁸

What's at Stake

In 2020, the Trump administration made changes to the Title IX rules, which reduced schools' obligations to help students who have faced sex-based harassment. In 2021, the Biden Administration announced plans to undo the Trump Administration's attack on students and survivors and create a Title IX rule that supports the rights of all students.⁹

What can Policymakers do?

- Policymakers must do everything in their power to give schools the resources they need to support student success and ensure that those resources are **accessible to all students**.¹⁰
- Enforcement of Title IX at all levels of education is essential. **Government funding for enforcement** efforts at the state and federal levels can make a huge difference for students.
- If they have not done so already, states should pass laws **allowing private individuals to sue to challenge sex discrimination in education**.¹¹
- Congress should enact legislation to ensure that **students receive the same level of protection from harassment in school** that employees receive in the workforce.
- Congress should pass **additional legislation to protect students**, including the Gender Equity in Education Act, the Equality Act, and the Safe Schools Improvement Act.

What can Students and Allies do?

- Any individual or group can file a Title IX complaint with the **U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR)** or the **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)**. You do not need a lawyer.
- Conduct a School Title IX and Safety Check. Using **this checklist**, evaluate your school's readiness to prevent and handle discrimination and sexual harassment and assault. Depending on what you learn, you can follow up and advocate for change.
- **Here** are ways adults can help girls achieve their rights.
- More resources and activities for students and their allies can be found **here**.

Other Resources

AAUW

Find your Title IX Coordinator.

Know Your IX

Free advocacy toolkits for youth-led state and campus level campaigns plus a FAQ booklet on how K-12 students can obtain required supportive measures from their school.

Women's Sports Foundation

Free curriculum, We Play Interactive, for girls ages 8-18 with online and downloadable activities; plus a timeline of legislative and advocacy efforts and research data.

Voice In Sport

Free podcasts, virtual book sessions, and virtual community events with college and professional female athletes.

National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education

Free issued-based summaries of Title IX including athletics, career and technical education, pregnant and parenting students, STEM, sexual harassment and assault, single-sex education, and Title IX coordinators.

U.S. Department of Education

Free information and resources including official Title IX texts, fact sheet, webinars and blogs.

Endnotes

- 1 United States Department of Justice. Equal Access to Education: Forty Years of Title IX. <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2012/06/20/titleixreport.pdf>.
- 2 National Women's Law Center. NINE FAST FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT AND TITLE IX. <https://www.lwtech.edu/about/policies-and-procedures/title-ix-and-sexual-misconduct/resources/docs/lwtech-9fastfacts-nwlc-titleix.pdf>.
- 3 "10 Facts Everyone Should Know about Title IX." National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 23 Aug. 2017, <https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/10-facts-everyone-should-know-about-title-ix>.
- 4 "Impact of Title IX on Women's Sports: Billie Jean King." Billie Jean King Enterprises, 15 Sept. 2017, <https://www.billiejeanking.com/equality/title-ix/#:~:text=The%20law%20opened%20doors%20and,1057%20percent%20and%20by%20614>.
- 5 "The Decade of Decline: Gender Equity in High School Sports." Women's Sports Foundation, 8 Oct. 2012, https://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/articles_and_report/decade-of-decline/.
- 6 "Title IX - NCWGE." The National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, 2017, <https://www.ncwge.org/TitleIX45/Title%20IX%20at%2045-Advancing%20Opportunity%20through%20Equity%20in%20Education.pdf>.
- 7 National Women's Law Center. NINE FAST FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT AND TITLE IX. <https://www.lwtech.edu/about/policies-and-procedures/title-ix-and-sexual-misconduct/resources/docs/lwtech-9fastfacts-nwlc-titleix.pdf>.
- 8 National Women's Law Center. NINE FAST FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT AND TITLE IX. <https://www.lwtech.edu/about/policies-and-procedures/title-ix-and-sexual-misconduct/resources/docs/lwtech-9fastfacts-nwlc-titleix.pdf>.
- 9 LePage, Brooke. "What's next for Title IX? - FutureEd." FutureEd - A New Voice for American Education, 26 Sept. 2021, <https://www.future-ed.org/whats-next-for-title-ix/>.
- 10 "Four Ways Policymakers Can Let Her Learn." National Women's Law Center, 5 Jan. 2022, <https://nwlc.org/four-ways-policymakers-can-let-her-learn/>.
- 11 "Strong Enforcement." Know Your IX, <https://www.knowyourix.org/statepolicy-playbook/strong-enforcement/>.