LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Statement from Superintendent Dr. Jermall Wright
June 4, 2026

The Little Rock School District is aware of social media posts and public comments suggesting that a recent coaching vacancy announcement at Central High School constitutes evidence of a Title IX violation because the Head Softball Coach position was posted as a stipend-only position while the District advertised an assistant football coaching vacancy alongside a teaching position.

That assertion is based on an incomplete understanding of the circumstances surrounding the vacancies. The Head Softball Coach position was posted as a *stipend-only* vacancy because the former softball coach resigned only from his softball coaching assignment and remained employed by the District in his teaching position. As a result, there was **no specific teaching vacancy available to be paired with the softball coaching vacancy.**

However, once the District identifies a candidate for the softball coaching position, that candidate can be paired with any number of available teaching positions in the District that align with the candidate's area(s) of licensure. This is the same process currently used for other stipend-only coaching position vacancies in LRSD.

By contrast, LRSD advertised the assistant football coaching vacancy alongside a **specific** teaching position because the employee occupying that role resigned from both his coaching assignment and teaching position. Consequently, both vacancies became available at the same time, but arose under entirely different circumstances and therefore required different posting processes.

Each school's staffing needs are unique, and one coaching position vacancy announcement may include a teaching position and another may not; however, this does not constitute unequal treatment, discrimination, or a Title IX violation. Title IX is evaluated by looking at the full picture - including opportunities, resources, support, benefits, treatment, and access provided to student-athletes across all athletic programs - not by looking at an isolated job posting or coaching vacancy.

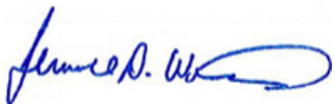
The Little Rock School District has publicly acknowledged that concerns regarding the Central High School softball program deserve immediate attention and is actively working to address them through both short- and long-term solutions. We recognize that many community members have expressed deep concerns about these issues. LRSD encourages everyone to seek accurate information before drawing conclusions based on isolated examples or social media commentary.

LRSD is also conducting a broader review of internal policies, procedures, and operational practices to determine where Title IX protections can be strengthened and to implement additional internal controls to proactively identify and prevent similar concerns in the future.

The District is evaluating current athletic hiring practices, coaching allocations, staffing structures, facility planning processes, and other operational decisions to better understand how those practices align with Title IX expectations and equitable opportunities for student-athletes. The goal is not only to address current concerns but also to establish stronger systems, safeguards, and decision-making processes so that equity considerations are identified and addressed proactively rather than reactively.

LRSD is committed to continuous improvement, accountability, and creating athletic programs that provide all students with access to opportunities, resources, and support consistent with both the spirit and intent of Title IX. The District also remains committed to transparency, factual communication, and continued collaboration as we work to strengthen opportunities for all students.

If stakeholders have any questions or concerns related to Title IX in the Little Rock School District, you may contact us at TitleIX@lrsd.org.



Jermall Wright, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools