



# LOUDOUN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

## **A joint statement from Loudoun County School Board Chair, Melinda Mansfield and Loudoun County Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Aaron Spence**

The Loudoun County School Board remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring every student in Loudoun County Public Schools is safe, supported, and able to thrive. We also remain committed to complying with applicable law and to protecting the rights of all students. Accordingly, current School Board policy permits students to access bathrooms and locker rooms that align with their consistently asserted gender identity, and provides alternative facilities for any student who requests them. This is based directly on controlling precedent in Virginia from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

The U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) recently determined that such policies conflict with its interpretation of Title IX, creating a direct tension between federal agency guidance and binding judicial authority. As a result, they asked LCPS (and four other school divisions in Northern Virginia) to sign a proposed resolution agreement. After consultation with legal counsel, the Board voted 6-3 not to comply with this request due to the tension between the OCR position and current law. We will continue to monitor developments closely to ensure continued legal compliance and the protection of all students.

Our priority remains the same: doing what is right for Loudoun County's young people; focusing on educating our students and ensuring our schools are places where every child feels they belong.

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