



Ben Gibson, *Chair*
Ryan Petty, *Vice Chair*
Members
Monesia Brown
Esther Byrd
Grazie Pozo Christie
Kelly Garcia
MaryLynn Magar

April 24, 2024

Dear Superintendents and Charter School Leaders,

On Friday, April 19, 2024, the United States Department of Education released a final rule making significant changes to the regulations implementing Title IX. Title IX is a relatively short, straightforward anti-discrimination statute. It provides that “[n]o person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

The rule will not take effect until August 1, 2024. Florida will fight this. **At Governor Ron DeSantis’ direction, no educational institution should begin implementing any changes.**

Instead of implementing Congress’s clear directive to prevent discrimination based on biological sex, the Biden Administration maims the statute beyond recognition in an attempt to gaslight the country into believing that biological sex no longer has any meaning. In doing so, it seeks to commandeer Florida’s educational institutions and force them to violate various federal and state laws, including the First Amendment and Florida’s Parental Rights in Education Act, as well as statutes to protect students’ privacy in bathrooms and locker rooms.

In Florida, we respect parents’ rights to direct their children’s education. We protect our students’ safety and privacy. And we make sure every student is given the chance to thrive on and off campus. We will keep pressing to accomplish these goals. As legal challenges unfold, and the Department has the opportunity to analyze this rule, I will release guidance on how to implement it in a way that is consistent with our goal to keep Florida #1 in education!

Sincerely,



Manny Diaz, Jr.