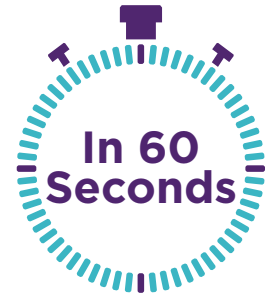


Independent Women's Voice®

Gender Ideology in Schools



What's at Stake

Some teachers and school counselors are pushing children down a path of gender transition, often without their parents' knowledge or permission. But "affirming" a child's gender identity and encouraging him or her to pursue "gender-affirming care" carries serious medical risks.

School staff pressure emotionally vulnerable children to transition to a new gender identity.

- Schools tell highly sensitive children, often girls, that, regardless of their struggles with depression, anxiety, obsession rumination, or eating disorders, cutting off their breasts ("top surgery") and a lifetime of [high-risk testosterone injections](#) ("gender-affirming care") will bring them "trans joy."
- Public school policies punish school [staff](#), [students](#), and [parents](#) who do not adhere to this radical belief system.

State and district policies hide information from parents.

- Activist-drafted policies require schools to transition children and then hide their new names, identities, and pronouns from parents through "[Gender Support Plans](#)."
- These plans are based on the radical assumption that the only option is an immediate and unquestioning affirmation of a new identity.

[Most Americans](#) do not want gender ideology taught in schools. And yet, gender activist-drafted [lessons](#), [books](#), and [materials](#) can be found in classrooms across the country.

The Way Forward

Policymakers should protect vulnerable children and preserve parental rights. Some states are already taking action:

- Florida's [Parental Rights in Education law](#) ensures that young students are not exposed to gender ideology lessons.
- The Virginia Department of Education's revised "[model policies](#)" involve parents if a child requests a name and pronoun change.

Education freedom empowers parents to protect their children from gender ideology.

Parents desperate to protect their children from cult-like indoctrination and secretive gender transitions need to leave the public school system, but not all families can afford alternative options. If governors and state legislators are serious about empowering parents to direct the care, upbringing, and education of their own children, they must ensure that education funding follows students to education options chosen by parents.

Addressing Misperceptions

MISPERCEPTIONS	FACTS
<p>A child may be a <u>boy, girl, both, or neither</u>.</p>	<p><u>Biological sex</u> is real and true. Schools are encouraging young people to think that if they don't conform to sex-based stereotypes, that they need to change themselves physically. That's sexist and cruel. Caring and responsible adults need to question why education and medical professionals are eager to rush children into transition services provided by Planned Parenthood or one of the 300 gender clinics that have emerged since 2007.</p>
<p>Schools must teach and practice "gender affirmation" to protect gender-questioning youth.</p>	<p>State standards and recommended lesson plans should prioritize accurate academic instruction, rather than proselytize gender ideology. Schools must acknowledge that parents are ultimately responsible for the care and upbringing of their children, and that all children need the emotional support, protection, and lifelong love that only parents can provide.</p>
<p>Society must socially and medically transition gender-nonconforming children at the earliest possible stage.</p>	<p><u>Detransitioners</u> are demanding that the social and medical transition of gender-confused children end and that society prioritize children's mental health instead. <u>Detransitioners are young adults</u> who sorrowfully acknowledge that they needed responsible, caring communities and mental-health support as teenagers, rather than a rush to puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and radical surgery, which did not resolve their underlying mental-health challenges.</p>