



Letter to Educators on Title IX's 49th Anniversary Notice of Language Assistance

Notice of Language Assistance: If you have difficulty understanding English, you may, free of charge, request language assistance services for this Department information by calling 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (TTY: 1-800-877-8339), or email us at: Ed.Language.Assistance@ed.gov.

Aviso a personas con dominio limitado del idioma inglés: Si usted tiene alguna dificultad en entender el idioma inglés, puede, sin costo alguno, solicitar asistencia lingüística con respecto a esta información llamando al 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (TTY: 1-800-877-8339), o envíe un mensaje de correo electrónico a: Ed.Language.Assistance@ed.gov.

給英語能力有限人士的通知: 如果您不懂英語, 或者使用英語有困難, 您可以要求獲得向大眾提供的語言協助服務, 幫助您理解教育部資訊。這些語言協助服務均可免費提供。如果您需要有關口譯或筆譯服務的詳細資訊, 請致電 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (聽語障人士專線: 1-800-877-8339), 或電郵: Ed.Language.Assistance@ed.gov。

Thông báo dành cho những người có khả năng Anh ngữ hạn chế: Nếu quý vị gặp khó khăn trong việc hiểu Anh ngữ thì quý vị có thể yêu cầu các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ cho các tin tức của Bộ dành cho công chúng. Các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ này đều miễn phí. Nếu quý vị muốn biết thêm chi tiết về các dịch vụ phiên dịch hay thông dịch, xin vui lòng gọi số 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (TTY: 1-800-877-8339), hoặc email: Ed.Language.Assistance@ed.gov.

영어 미숙자를 위한 공고: 영어를 이해하는 데 어려움이 있으신 경우, 교육부 정보 센터에 일반인 대상 언어 지원 서비스를 요청하실 수 있습니다. 이러한 언어 지원 서비스는 무료로 제공됩니다. 통역이나 번역 서비스에 대해 자세한 정보가 필요하신 경우, 전화번호 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) 또는 청각 장애인용 전화번호 1-800-877-8339 또는 이메일주소 Ed.Language.Assistance@ed.gov 으로 연락하시기 바랍니다.

Paunawa sa mga Taong Limitado ang Kaalaman sa English: Kung nahihirapan kayong makaintindi ng English, maaari kayong humingi ng tulong ukol dito sa impormasyon ng Kagawaran mula sa nagbibigay ng serbisyo na pagtulong kaugnay ng wika. Ang serbisyo na pagtulong kaugnay ng wika ay libre. Kung kailangan ninyo ng dagdag na impormasyon tungkolsa mga serbisyo kaugnay ng pagpapaliwanag o pagsasalin, mangyari lamang tumawag sa 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (TTY: 1-800-877-8339), o mag-email sa: Ed.Language.Assistance@ed.gov.

Уведомление для лиц с ограниченным знанием английского языка: Если вы испытываете трудности в понимании английского языка, вы можете попросить, чтобы вам предоставили перевод информации, которую Министерство Образования доводит до всеобщего сведения. Этот перевод предоставляется бесплатно. Если вы хотите получить более подробную информацию об услугах устного и письменного перевода, звоните по телефону 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (служба для слабослышащих: 1-800-877-8339), или отправьте сообщение по адресу: Ed.Language.Assistance@ed.gov.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

June 23, 2021

Dear Educator:

On this 49th anniversary of the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972—our nation’s most powerful legal tool for combating sex discrimination in education—I take this opportunity to highlight a selection of resources available for you to ensure that the education environment you provide is free from sex discrimination in all forms. Among these resources is our recent [public notice](#) clarifying Title IX’s protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights works to ensure that Title IX’s mandate protects students in all aspects of their education, including recruitment, admissions, and counseling; financial assistance; athletics; protections from sex-based harassment, which encompasses sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence; treatment of pregnant and parenting students; discipline; equal access to classes and activities; and treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) students.

I encourage you to review OCR’s recent report, [Education in a Pandemic: The Disparate Impacts of COVID-19 on America’s Students](#), in which we address the disparities based on sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as race, disability, and other characteristics experienced by students both before and during the pandemic in K-12 and postsecondary settings. On this anniversary of Title IX, I recognize the particular vulnerability of LGBTQI+ students and the often overwhelming challenges these students face in education compared to their peers, including feeling less safe, experiencing poor mental health, facing a higher risk of suicide, being more likely to miss school, and facing a disproportionate risk of being homeless.

I also want to bring to your attention OCR’s [public notice](#) based on the Supreme Court’s recent decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, 140 S. Ct. 1731, 590 U.S. ____ (2020), which clarifies that Title IX’s protection against sex discrimination encompasses discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Specifically, OCR clarifies that the Supreme Court’s decision in *Bostock* applies to the Department’s interpretation of Title IX. In its decision, the Supreme Court explained that “it is impossible to discriminate against a person” because of their sexual orientation or gender identity “without discriminating against that individual based on sex.” *Id.* at 1741. That reasoning applies regardless of whether the individual is an adult in a workplace or a student in school.

Consistent with this notice, OCR will fully enforce Title IX to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in education programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the Department. For more information, please see our accompanying [fact sheet](#) in which OCR and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division provide examples of the kinds of incidents we can investigate.

OCR has also updated its website to provide the resources mentioned above and to provide additional information and [resources for LGBTQI+ students](#).

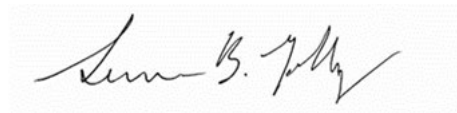
On Title IX more generally, you might find it useful to review this [Overview of the Law](#) and these [Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Sex Discrimination](#).

We realize educators may have questions about the Department’s 2020 amendments to the Title IX regulations, and we appreciate that so many of you shared your insights and experiences during our virtual public hearing on Title IX held on June 7-11, 2021. We are reviewing the comments we received and, [as previously noted](#), anticipate issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking to amend the regulations. In addition, we plan to issue a question-and-answer document to provide additional clarity about how OCR interprets schools’ existing obligations under the 2020 amendments, including the areas in which schools have discretion in their procedures for responding to reports of sexual harassment.

If you have questions or would like additional information or technical assistance, please visit us at www.ed.gov/ocr or contact OCR at 800-421-3481 (TDD: 800-877-8339) or at ocr@ed.gov.

We at OCR share with you the responsibility to ensure that all students have equal access to education, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. Thank you for all that you do to support all of our nation’s students and to ensure that they have the opportunity to learn and thrive in school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne B. Goldberg", is written over a light gray grid background.

Suzanne B. Goldberg
Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights