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ELC-PA Responds to Supreme Court Decision on Transgender Students' Participation in School Sports

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The Education Law Center-PA is deeply disappointed in the U. S. Supreme Court’s decision in [West Virginia v. B.P.J. and Little v. Hecox](#), and the continuing pattern of targeting and excluding trans young people from equal opportunities in our schools. The Court held that Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause do not prohibit states from enacting bans on trans girls participating in sports aligned with their gender identity. **Importantly, however, the decision does not require such bans or prohibit inclusive policies that rightly ensure trans students’ access to sports.** Pennsylvania does not have a state law banning trans students from playing sports and ELC-PA urges schools to continue their commitment to inclusive policies that allow all kids to play.

“Every student deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and participate fully in school life,” said Kristina Moon, Senior Attorney at the Education Law Center-PA. “School sports provide important opportunities for students to build confidence, develop leadership skills, form meaningful relationships and experience belonging. Excluding transgender students from these opportunities undermines those goals and sends a harmful message that some young people do not belong and do not have the right to fully participate in school. We will continue to fight for all trans students to enjoy welcoming and inclusive schools across Pennsylvania.”

Schools remain responsible for ensuring that all students, regardless of their gender identities, can learn in environments free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination. Educators, policymakers, and school communities should continue working to create welcoming schools where every student is treated with dignity and respect.

At ELC-PA, we remain committed to advancing educational equity and protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ students. We will continue to provide resources, advocacy, and legal support to help ensure that all students can fully participate in school life and have the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

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The Education Law Center-PA (ELC-PA) is a nonprofit, legal advocacy organization with offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, dedicated to ensuring that all children in Pennsylvania have access to a quality public education. Through legal representation, impact litigation, community engagement, and policy advocacy, ELC-PA advances the rights of underserved children, including children living in poverty, children of color, children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, children with disabilities, multilingual learners, LGBTQ+ youth, children experiencing homelessness, and children at the intersection of multiple underserved identities. For more information, visit elc-pa.org or [@edlawcenterpa.bsky.social](https://edlawcenterpa.bsky.social) on Bluesky, [@edlawcenterpa](https://www.instagram.com/edlawcenterpa) on Instagram, [Education Law Center-PA](https://www.linkedin.com/company/education-law-center-pa) on LinkedIn, and facebook.com/educationlawcenter on Facebook.

Ensuring that all of Pennsylvania’s children have equal access to a quality public education.