

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Q. Do schools allow boys in the girls' locker rooms, showers, bathrooms?

A. YES, this is the new policy.

- By adding "gender identity" to nondiscrimination Policy 1450, the school board opened girls' showers, locker rooms, bathrooms, and sports teams to male students who identify as female, and vice versa.
- The FCPS School Board made this controversial change to Policy 1450 with only two weeks' notice to the public. They gave no opportunity for most parents to comment on the proposal. No impact analysis was shared with the public, and no studies of safety or other concerns were offered for parent or stakeholder review.
- FCPS allows accommodation of transgender students on a case-by-case basis, leaving the decision concerning access to bathrooms, showers, and locker rooms up to principals and administrators.

Q. How many boys have used girls' locker rooms in FCPS?

A. Our School Board won't tell us.

- The current FCPS policy is not to inform other parents or obtain parental consent when students of one sex use the private spaces of students of another sex. For example, a 6th transgender student (age 12-13) could share bathroom facilities with much younger students of the opposite biological sex. *FCPS policy grants students who make these demands a right to privacy that supersedes the privacy and civil rights of everyone else.*
- Parents have become aware of situations where boys claiming a female gender have used private spaces reserved for women or girls. If girls complain, the girls can be accused of discriminating against the (biologically male) transgender student based on his "gender identity." Further, an objecting girl could be subject to punishment (including suspension) per the Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook. At best, girls who object to undressing in front of biological boys may be accommodated by being allowed to use another bathroom, locker room, or shower.

Q. What's the problem with FCPS sex ed/Family Life Education (FLE)? Don't kids need to know these things?

A. Many parents are unaware that FCPS sex ed (FLE) includes instruction containing gender identity, anal sex, needle drug use, and more.

- The Family Life Education (FLE or sex education) program is taught in grades K-12. FLE has expanded over the years to more than 80 hours per student of needlessly sexually explicit materials. This far exceeds Virginia Department of Education mandates.
- FLE in 9th grade is taught in Biology; "gender identity" lessons in that grade ignore the biological science of DNA by teaching one's "gender assigned at birth" may be different than one's biological sex.
- Most parents are shocked to learn of FLE's quasi-pornographic content, which includes 19 positive mentions of "anal sex" in one 8th grade lesson, for example. Most parents are not aware that 5th graders are taught about needle sharing and sexually transmitted diseases.
- *Many parents are unaware they can (and should) opt out of FCPS FLE (sex ed).*

Q. If I opt my child out of FLE, will he or she be protected from controversial material?

A. Maybe not.

- Assigning sexually explicit material consisting of graphic descriptions of bestiality, incest, pedophilia and gang rape is not uncommon in English literature classes. While book titles may be listed on a multi-page syllabus, teachers are not required to notify parents *which* of the assigned books contain sexually explicit material.
- Parents routinely complain of content so extreme the school board has discouraged reading aloud the offensive material at school board meetings.
- Parents have discovered reading assignments in middle and high school English classes that included graphic violence, drug use, sex between children, and more, often *after* their children have read the material.

Q. What's wrong with the Youth (sex) Survey? We need to know what our kids are up to...

A. Youth (sex) Survey questions are graphic, intrusive, and leading – suggesting to children that controversial behaviors are the norm.

- The Youth Survey asks questions such as: how many times in the last month have children had oral sex; how many sexual partners children have had in the last year; how many times have children used needle and other drugs; and other intrusive questions.
- *Most parents are unaware that they can opt out of the Youth (sex) Survey.*

Q. Are school libraries a safe place for children?

A. Maybe not. Many schools in FCPS have controversial or age inappropriate material on shelves for students to read.

- For example, the controversial gender identity book George was removed from FCPS libraries after parent complaints. This book was secretly returned to elementary school libraries by FCPS Administration at the request of FCPS Librarians and staff. (The main character in the book George thinks he is really a girl and wants to be called “Melissa.”)
- I am Jazz, a picture book about a boy who lives as a transgender girl, is available to FCPS students. *If a student fails to bring a book home from school or simply reads it in the library, parents may never know their child was exposed to this or other controversial material.*

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Raise awareness – talk to friends and neighbors about what is going on
- Stay informed by joining groups at your school and in your community
- OPT OUT. Visit <https://www.fcps.edu/academics/academic-overview/family-life-education-fle>
 - ✓ Send a letter to the principal of your school (every year)
 - ✓ Return the Family Life Education (FLE) Opt out Forms (every year)
 - ✓ Return Youth Survey Opt Out Forms (grades 6, 8, 10 and 12)
 - ✓ Decline to sign SR&R Forms (every year)
- Demand answers from school board, school officials, and all elected public officials
 - ✓ Support elected officials and candidates who share your values
 - ✓ Attend school board meetings and participate in public comments
 - ✓ Send emails and letters, make phone calls, and meet in person with school board members

<https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/school-board-members>