

Fox News and Massachusetts Family Institute Slam New Student Transgender Policy

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Abstract

The Fox News headline “Students Who Refuse to Affirm Transgender Classmates Face Punishment” sets the stage for this “Cultural War” against trans people written by Todd Starnes. Deconstructing Fox lies. The headline of Starnes article is a lie. There is no wording in the new policy mentioning disciplinary actions of any kind. Todd Starnes writes [...]

Article

The Fox News headline “Students Who Refuse to Affirm Transgender Classmates Face Punishment” sets the stage for this “Cultural War” against trans people written by Todd Starnes.

Deconstructing Fox lies.

The headline of Starnes article is a lie. There is no wording in the new policy mentioning disciplinary actions of any kind.

Todd Starnes writes “The new rules would also prevent teachers and administrators from telling parents with which gender their child identifies.”

That’s a lie. According to the Massachusetts Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity the school will be empowered to formulate a plan with the student to inform others that is in the best interest of the student providing the student is over the age of 14 or has entered the 9th grade. If the student is younger than that the students parents should be automatically be brought into the conversation to help formulate the plan.

Names and Pronouns

The issue of the name and pronoun to use in referring to a transgender student is one of the first that schools must resolve to create an environment in which that student feels safe and supported. Transgender students often choose to change the name assigned to them at birth to a name that is associated with their gender identity. As with most other issues involved with creating a safe and supportive environment for transgender students, the best course is to engage the student, and in the case of a younger student, the parent, with respect to name and pronoun use, and agree on a plan to initiate that name and pronoun use within the school. The plan also could include when and how this is communicated to students and their parents. In the case of a transgender student who is enrolling at a new school, it is important that the school respect the student's privacy (see the following section) and chosen name.

Fox used the vitriol of a hate group to validate this hate filled screed:

*"The Massachusetts Family Institute denounced the new rules calling them a violation of privacy."
"Fundamentally, boys need to be using the boys' room and girls need to be using the girls' rooms, and we base that on their anatomical sex, not some sort of internalized gender identity," said Andrew Beckwith, the institute's general counsel."
"Beckwith told Fox News the new policy has a "very broad standard that is ripe for abuse."*

We hear this tripe from haters, the door will be left open for predators. What a heap of trash.

Here's what the new policy says about public accommodations:

Restrooms, Locker Rooms, and Changing Facilities

All students are entitled to have access to restrooms, locker rooms and changing facilities that are sanitary, safe, and adequate, so they can comfortably and fully engage in their school program and activities. In meeting with the transgender student (and parent) to discuss the issues set forth in this memorandum, it is essential that the principal and student address the student's access to the restrooms, locker room and changing facility. Each situation needs to be reviewed and addressed based on the particular circumstances of the student and the school facilities. In all cases, the principal should be clear with the student (and parent) that the student may access the restroom, locker room, and changing facility that corresponds to the student's gender identity. While some transgender students will want that arrangement, others will not be comfortable with it. Transgender students who are uncomfortable using a sex-segregated restroom should be provided with a safe and adequate alternative, such as a single "unisex" restroom or the nurse's restroom. Similarly, some transgender students may not be comfortable undressing in the changing facilities that correspond to the student's gender identity. The following are examples of ways in which school officials have responded to these situations:

Fox isn't done with Beckwith yet pandering to the fears of haters saying:

*"And any student who refuses to refer to a transgendered student by the name or sex they identify with could face punishment.
For example - a fifth grade girl might feel uncomfortable using the restroom if there is an eighth grade transgendered boy in the next stall."*

Under the state guidelines, the girl would have no recourse, Beckwith said.

“And if the girl continued to complain she could be subjected to discipline for not affirming that student’s gender identity choice,” he told Fox News.”

“It should not be tolerated and can be grounds for student discipline,” the directive states

That is a bold faced italicized lie.

Again the policy was posted earlier in the article. There are is no mention of discipline or course of actions laid out if and when a child’s gender expression is challenged.

Then gym came up. the directive suggests:

Physical Education Classes and Intramural and Interscholastic Athletic Activities

Physical education is a required course in all grades in Massachusetts’ public schools, and school-based athletics are an important part of many students’ lives. Most physical education classes in Massachusetts’ schools are coed, so the gender identity of students should not be an issue with respect to these classes. Where there are sex-segregated classes or athletic activities, including intramural and interscholastic athletics, all students must be allowed to participate in a manner consistent with their gender identity. With respect to interscholastic athletics, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association will rely on the gender determination made by the student’s district; it will not make separate gender identity determinations.

So there it is. You can read the full Fox screed [Here](#).

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