

MOSES LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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February 25, 2025

The Honorable Bob Ferguson
Office of the Governor
416 Sid Snyder Ave SW,
Olympia, WA 98501

The Honorable Chris Reykdal
Secretary of Public Instruction
Old Capitol Building
P.O. Box 47200
600 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504-7200

State Superintendent Chris Reykdal,

The Moses Lake School District Board of Directors is writing you this letter, to express our concern over public statements you have recently made on news programs and other media sources. In your statements, you have made it very clear that you have no intention of following the directives of the United States Department of Education or the lawful Executive Orders issued by President Donald J. Trump, under the authority granted to him by the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the United States of America.

Your actions, Superintendent Chris Reykdal, and words could have dire consequences for all schools in Washington State, and your viewpoints do not reflect the community we serve nor the students we have the honor to serve and protect.

On February 5th, 2025 President Trump's executive order sets legal policy and purpose. "Keeping Men Out Of Women's Sports".

Section 1. Policy and Purpose. "In recent years, many educational institutions and athletic associations have allowed men to compete in women's sports. This is demeaning, unfair, and dangerous to women and girls, and denies women and girls

the equal opportunity to participate and excel in competitive sports. Moreover, under title IX of the Education Act of 1972(TitleIX) educational institutions receiving Federal Funds cannot deny women an equal opportunity to participate in sports. As some Federal courts have recognized “ignoring fundamental biological truths between the two sexes deprives women and girls of meaningful access to educational facilities”. Tennessee v. Cardona, 24-cv-00072 at 73 (E.D. Ky. 2024) See also Kansas v. U.S. Dept. of Education, 24-cv-04041 at 23 (D. Kan. 2024)

“ Therefore, it is the policy of the United States to rescind all funds from educational programs that deprive women and girls of fair athletic opportunities, which result in the endangerment, humiliation, and silencing of women and girls and deprives them of privacy”.

To this end, the Moses Lake School Board of Education has resolved to revise our athletic eligibility policies effective immediately. We as a board do not believe we can achieve diversity or equity by infringing on students' civil liberties. Specifically, we will:

- Update our student handbook and athletic guidelines to prohibit individuals assigned male at birth from participating in girls' sports teams, consistent with the executive order's interpretation of Title IX.
- Review and adjust facility usage policies, such as locker rooms and restrooms, to ensure alignment with this federal mandate while prioritizing student privacy and safety.
- Communicate these changes to our students, staff, and families to ensure transparency and understanding of our commitment to fairness in athletics.

“Discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin is illegal and morally reprehensible”. The greatest civil rights leader in history, Dr. Martin L. King said “ we must judge our fellow man by the content of his character and not the color of his skin”. We as a community and the Moses Lake School Board believe in this dream

and believe we as a community can achieve that goal, if our elected leaders would just follow that very simple rule.

On February 14th, 2024 the United States Department of Education Office For Civil Rights sent out a letter to all schools Nationwide.

The Department of Education made it very clear that “ The Department will no longer tolerate the overt and covert racial discrimination that has become widespread in this Nation’s educational institutions. The law is clear: treating students differently on the basis of race to achieve nebulous goals such as diversity, racial balancing, social justice or equity is illegal under controlling Supreme Court precedent, pursuant to: Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard (SFFA) 2023.

The letter advises all Educational institutions to: (1) ensure that their policies and actions comply with existing civil rights law; (2) cease all efforts to circumvent prohibitions on the use of race by relying on proxies or other indirect means to accomplish such ends; and (3) cease all reliance on third-party contractors, clearinghouses, or aggregators that are being used by institutions in an effort to circumvent prohibited uses of race.

“Institutions that fail to comply with federal civil rights law may, consistent with applicable law, face potential loss of federal funding”. As the Board of Directors of the Moses Lake School District, we are committed to adhering to federal law, as per our sworn oath. We trust that your office will also uphold federal law, without allowing personal biases or differing viewpoints to jeopardize the Moses Lake School District's Federal funding.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to our Washington State students. We look forward to your guidance as we move forward together.

Sincerely,

Kirryn Jensen, Moses Lake School Board Chair, Position 5

Carla Urias, Moses Lake School Board Vice-Chair, Position 3

Amy Breitenstein, Moses Lake School Board, Position 1

Paul Hill, Moses Lake School Board, Position 2

Ryan Coulston, Moses Lake School Board, Position 4

