



FAQ: Transgender Students in Massachusetts After *B.P.J.* and *Hecox*

This resource is intended to provide information and general guidance to Massachusetts public school educators, students and parents on the meaning and practical implications of the U.S. Supreme Court's West Virginia v. B.P.J. and Little v. Hecox decisions. For information about the impact of this ruling outside Massachusetts, please visit this [FAQ page](#).

This resource was created for educational purposes only and is not legal advice. Please consult with an attorney regarding your particular situation and your school's particular policies and practices.

Case Background

In a heartbreaking loss for transgender youth and their families, the Supreme Court upheld two laws in Idaho and West Virginia barring transgender women and girls from competing on sports teams for women and girls. The Court ruled in June 2026 that state laws banning transgender women and girls from sports teams do not violate either the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution or Title IX, the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in educational programs.

Since 2020, 27 states have banned transgender youth from playing school sports. Many of these bans allow for [invasive forms](#) of [sex testing](#) that put all female student-athletes at risk and embolden intrusive challenges to student-athletes' sex.

Massachusetts does not have a state law banning transgender youth from playing school sports. But we know that transgender people and their families are facing attacks on many fronts — from their safety at school and work to their access to medical care. This resource explains what this most recent decision from the Supreme Court means for the freedom of transgender students in Massachusetts to be themselves on and off the field.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Does this ruling mean that transgender girls and women in Massachusetts are now banned from joining school sports teams consistent with their gender identity?**

No. The Court's ruling does not [require](#) states or school officials to ban transgender students from athletics. This means that Massachusetts laws and school policies permitting transgender student-athletes to participate in sports consistent with their gender identity remain valid. [Massachusetts law](#) bans discrimination on the basis of gender identity in schools, and [requires](#) students to be allowed to participate in school activities, including sports, in a manner consistent with their gender identity.

- **What does this mean for transgender students' access to bathrooms, locker rooms, and other school facilities?**

The Court's ruling specifically notes it *only* applies to the ability of transgender students to play on sports teams consistent with their gender identity. The decision does not address students' ability to use restrooms or locker rooms consistent with their gender identity. The Court made very clear that the decision was based on the particular legal and practical realities of athletics. In Massachusetts, students [have the right](#) to use restrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity.

- **Does this ruling affect physical education classes, non-athletic gendered programs, such as Boys' and Girls' State conferences or chess clubs, or non-competitive school sports?**

No. The Court made a point of distinguishing between sports and other educational contexts. The ruling does not address any legal questions outside of the sports context. In Massachusetts, laws banning discrimination on the basis of gender identity in school [apply to all](#) extra-curricular activities and classes.

- **How does this case impact existing school protections?**

Important state laws that promote and protect inclusive school experiences for students are still in place. Public schools in Massachusetts are still required to provide a welcoming learning environment [for everyone](#). State law also [bans discrimination](#) in public school [activities](#) and [classes](#) based on gender identity, sex, or sexual orientation. These laws remain unaffected by the *B.P.J.* and *Hecox* ruling. Transgender students who also have a disability may qualify for school accommodations related to their medical conditions.

- **Am I still protected from bullying if I am a transgender student?**

Yes. On and off the field, transgender students have the [right to be safe from bullying](#) in a school context. Schools are [required to respond](#) and act to keep students safe when a student reports bullying or [harassment](#) because they are [transgender](#). Outside of the school context, Massachusetts law includes prejudice on the basis of gender identity in its [definition of a hate crime](#). The Court ruling does not affect anti-bullying laws or hate crime laws.

You can learn more about LGBTQ+ students' rights in Massachusetts by visiting the [ACLU of Massachusetts](#) and [GLAD Law](#). If you or someone you know has experienced bullying in school because you are LGBTQ+, you can share your story confidentially [here](#).

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