

What you need to know:

Gender Ideology

What is gender ideology?

Gender ideology is a broad term for modern conceptions about sex and gender. This includes the idea that gender is fluid and separate from biological sex.

What's the issue?

Time in a classroom is a zero-sum game, and it should be spent teaching students to read, write, and do math. Schools are not the place to encourage children to question their gender or sexuality. Those sensitive and private conversations should happen within the home with parents. Our sister organization, Parents Defending Education, has uncovered more than 1,000 school districts with policies that say parents may not be notified about their child's decision to live as another gender identity at school. Parents, not schools, are first and foremost responsible for a child's upbringing.

When they say...	You can say...
How can you oppose teaching children to be accepting of others'—and maybe even their own—identities?	Conversations about a child's feelings and identity are extremely personal, and parents should be in the room for these conversations. Unfortunately, some schools have twisted good conversations about respect and human dignity to discussions that encourage children to "explore" or "question" their identity. This is not a school's place.
What about children who come from families who may not be open to their identity?	First, teachers are mandatory reporters in every state. If there's reason to believe a child is being harmed at home for any reason, schools should contact the proper authorities. Second, this narrative villainizes good, loving parents who may be opposed to modern views on sex and gender. It tells children that their parents aren't safe, and encourages them to live a double life at school and at home. That is bad for all children, and especially those who need more support.
We need to trust kids when they tell us who they are.	The science on youth gender dysphoria is limited, but some studies have shown that children desist from their gender dysphoria with time. Able parents and families, not schools, know what's best for their kids.
Children and teens have always experimented with their identities. What makes this any different?	It is simply not a school's place to decide how a child can experiment with his or her identity. Parents, not schools, have the right to raise their children.

For more information, check out Parents Defending Education's [map](#).

