

— 3 WAYS FOR PARENTS TO —

NAVIGATE DESTRUCTIVE GENDER IDEOLOGY IN SCHOOLS



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Some government officials are using our education system as a platform to introduce lies to children, including lies about the fundamental nature of their biology. This push to enforce radical gender ideology is harming children, destroying families, and tearing away at the very truth and dignity of human nature, gender differences, marriage, and the family.

Scripture repeatedly reinforces that parents have the responsibility of raising their children in light of the truth.

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4)

That same understanding about the role of parents is now at stake in our culture and in the courtroom.

Alliance Defending Freedom is committed to defending the right of parents to raise their children, and we want to equip you with the tools and resources you need to protect your child from the dangers of gender ideology.

The following three principles can assist you in navigating these harmful policies. Please share with parents or leaders in your family, church, and community.

PRAY UP

Christians are well aware of their duty to influence the minds and hearts of children from an early age and to direct them in the way of truth.

That includes fervently praying for them, knowing that there is power in our prayers.

“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us” (1 John 5:14).

Make it a daily practice to pray for your children, seeking refuge in God and asking for His protection so that future generations may continue to find their joy in Him. Pray specifically for your children’s individual needs, their teachers, school officials, and those who will influence them in their daily lives.

LEAD UP

Parents must lead — not follow — when it comes to what their children are learning. Ask your children what they are learning in class each day. Be proactive and stay tuned in with their curriculum.

Many schools now create secret “gender support plans” and are “socially transitioning” students to a new gender identity by requiring teachers and staff to use names and pronouns for these students that do not align with their birth name or sex. Below are some questions you may want to ask your school:

- Can my child change his or her name or pronouns without my consent?
- Will I be notified and asked to give permission before my child receives counseling?
- Are there situations in which the school maintains separate counseling records apart from its official school records?
- Does the school implement gender support plans, and if so, will I be informed about them?
- Can children use restrooms or participate in sports programs of their non-biological sex if they identify as the opposite sex?

Additionally, you should familiarize yourself with textbooks, written materials, and online resources that will be used or are used in class, by attending back-to-school and curriculum nights or by asking the teachers for those lists. If you discover lessons that you consider harmful, knowing so in advance will enable you to raise your concerns with teachers and other officials at your child’s school.

STAND UP

To preserve their rights, parents can “ACT” by pursuing laws and policies that promote government accountability in schools, parent choice, and transparency (ACT).

- **Accountability:** Parents should support policies that hold school officials legally accountable for efforts to keep parents in the dark about important decisions regarding their child’s health and education.
- **Choice:** Parents should protect their decision-making authority by advocating for policies that require schools to obtain parental permission before their child receives any instruction relating to sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- **Transparency:** Parents should exercise their right to review all curriculum, instructional materials, and teacher training materials (whether printed or online) before their child enters the classroom. Parents who believe their child’s (or their children’s) rights have been violated can request legal assistance from Alliance Defending Freedom.

School accountability (like government accountability) sometimes requires legal action, which seeks to enforce and apply legal protections under the U.S. Constitution and state and federal law.



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