LGBTQ Youth: Bans on Transgender Youth Participation in Sports

No updates required since July 26, 2023

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Recommended citation:
Background

These laws ban transgender youth from participating in school sports, most frequently in K-12 schools and often in college as well. These laws mean that transgender girls, for example, would not be allowed to participate in sports with other girls. Local schools and state athletic associations already have policies that both protect transgender people and ensure a level playing field for all athletes. In contrast, the policies shown below are blanket bans on transgender people’s participation in sports, and they are both unnecessary and harmful.

Equality Map

See our Equality Map: Bans on Transgender Youth Participation in Sports, which is updated and maintained in real time alongside this document.

Summary Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>States that ban transgender students from playing sports according to their gender identity</td>
<td>22 states</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>List</th>
<th>Bill Link</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>HB391 (K-12)</td>
<td>HB261 (college)</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>SB1165</td>
<td></td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>HB1570/SB354</td>
<td></td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>S1028</td>
<td></td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>HB500</td>
<td></td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>HB1041</td>
<td></td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>HF2416</td>
<td></td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>HB2238</td>
<td></td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>SB83</td>
<td></td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>SB44</td>
<td></td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>SB2536</td>
<td></td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>HB112</td>
<td></td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>SB39</td>
<td></td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>HB1249 (K-12)</td>
<td>HB1489 (college)</td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>SB2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>H4608</td>
<td></td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>SB46</td>
<td></td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>HB3 (5-12)</td>
<td>HB2316 (college)</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>HB25 (K-12)</td>
<td>SB15 (college)</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>HB11</td>
<td></td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>HB3293</td>
<td></td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>SF133</td>
<td></td>
<td>2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| States with no ban | Alaska  
California  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
Delaware  
District of Columbia  
Georgia  
Hawai‘i  
Illinois  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Nebraska  
Nevada  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
New Mexico  
New York  
North Carolina  
Ohio  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Rhode Island  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington  
Wisconsin  
American Samoa  
Guam  
Northern Mariana Islands  
Puerto Rico  
U.S. Virgin Islands |
**Table 2: Grade Applicability of Existing Bans**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>States that ban transgender students from participating in sports...</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(22 states total)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...in K-12 and college (16)</td>
<td>Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana* - college part ruled unconstitutional, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...in grades 5-12 and college (1)</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...in grades 6-12 and college (1)</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...in “secondary” schools and college (2)</td>
<td>Florida, West Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...in K-12 only (1)</td>
<td>Utah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...in grades 7-12 only (1)</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No bans or restrictions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(28 states, DC, + 5 territories)</td>
<td>All others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Table 3: “Proof” of Sex/Gender in Existing Bans

*How states are expected to determine a student’s sex/gender according to existing bans*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Applicability</th>
<th>“Proof” of Sex/Gender</th>
<th>Other notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Does not specify</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Does not specify</td>
<td>Currently blocked by temporary court order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Does not specify</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Secondary and college</td>
<td>Original birth certificate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>If there is a dispute about a student’s sex, the student must “provide a health examination and consent form or other statement signed by the student’s personal health care provider that shall verify the student’s biological sex. The health care provider may verify the student’s biological sex as part of a routine sports physical examination relying only on one (1) or more of the following: the student's reproductive anatomy, genetic makeup, or normal endogenously produced testosterone levels.”</td>
<td>Currently blocked by temporary court order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Does not specify, but refers to “biological sex at birth in accordance with the student’s genetics and reproductive biology…”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Original birth certificate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Does not specify, but defines “biological sex” as “the biological indication of male and female in the context of reproductive potential or capacity, such as sex chromosomes, naturally occurring sex hormones, gonads and nonambiguous internal and external genitalia present at birth, without regard to an individual’s psychological, chosen or subjective experience of gender.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bill also directs state high school athletic association and college board of regents to adopt rules to implement this ban. In April 2023, the high school association announced they will use birth certificates to determine gender.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>6-12 and college</td>
<td>Original birth certificate OR a sworn affidavit from a medical provider “that conducted the annual medical examination required by [this law] establishing the student’s biological sex at the time of birth”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Original birth certificate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Does not specify</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Original birth certificate</td>
<td>Ban will expire in four years (August 28, 2027)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Table continued on next page)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Applicability</th>
<th>“Proof” of Sex/Gender</th>
<th>Other notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>K-12 and college*</td>
<td>Does not specify</td>
<td>*College ban ruled unconstitutional, but K-12 ban still in effect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Does not specify, but defines “sex” as “the biological state of being female or male, based on an individual’s nonambiguous sex organs, chromosomes, and endogenous hormone profile at birth.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>For all athletes, requires parental affidavit (or, if athlete is 18+, affidavit from the athlete) attesting to their athlete’s sex assigned at birth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Original birth certificate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Original birth certificate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>5-12 and college</td>
<td>Original birth certificate or, if birth certificate is not the original or does not show sex, then “the student must provide other evidence indicating the student’s sex at the time of birth.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>K-12 and college</td>
<td>Original birth certificate or, if birth certificate not available, another government ID</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>K-12</td>
<td>Does not specify, but defines “sex” as “the biological, physical condition of being male or female, determined by an individual’s genetics and anatomy at birth.”</td>
<td>Currently blocked by temporary court order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>Secondary and college</td>
<td>Does not specify, but defines “biological sex” as “an individual’s physical form as a male or female based solely on the individual’s reproductive biology and genetics at birth.”</td>
<td>Currently blocked by temporary court order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>7-12</td>
<td>Does not specify, but defines “sex” as “the biological, physical condition of being male or female, determined by an individual’s genetics and anatomy at birth.” It also creates a new commission like Utah’s, and that process for eligibility/permission references a student’s birth certificate. The process appears to allow students to play on a team that does not match their birth certificate under certain circumstances, but that can include providing evidence of “the student’s physical characteristics or medical treatments”.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chronology

Order of Laws
(by date of governor signature/order or veto override, not by effective date)

2020 (1 this year)
   1. Idaho – HB500 – March 30, 2020

2021 (9 new states this year)
   2. Mississippi – SB2536 – March 11, 2021
   3. Arkansas – HB1570/SB354 – March 25, 2021
   4. Tennessee – SB228/HB3 (grades 5-12) – March 26, 2021
   5. South Dakota – EO 2021-05 (K-12), EO 2021-06 (college) – March 29, 2021, by executive orders
   6. Alabama – HB391 (K-12) – April 23, 2021
   7. West Virginia – HB3293 – April 28, 2021
   8. Montana – HB112 – May 7, 2021
   9. Florida – S1028 – June 1, 2021
  10. Texas – HB25 (K-12) – October 25, 2021

2022 (8 new states this year)
   South Dakota – SB46 – Feb 2, 2022, by legislation and building on existing executive orders
   11. Iowa – HF2416 – March 3, 2022
   12. Utah – HB11 – March 25, 2022, overriding governor veto
   15. Kentucky – SB83 – April 13, 2022, overriding governor veto
      Tennessee – SB2153/HB2316 (college) – May 6, 2022
   16. South Carolina – H4608 – May 16, 2022
   17. Indiana – HB1041 – May 24, 2022, overriding governor veto
   18. Louisiana – SB44 – June 6, 2022, without governor’s signature

2023 (4 new states and counting this year)
   19. Wyoming – SF133 – March 17, 2023, without governor’s signature
   20. Kansas – HB2238 – April 5, 2023, overriding governor veto
   21. North Dakota – HB1249 (K-12), HB1489 (college) – April 11, 2023
      Alabama – HB261 (college) – May 30, 2023
   22. Missouri – SB39 – June 7, 2023
      Texas – SB15 (college) – June 18, 2023

Order of Governor Vetoes

1. North Dakota – HB1298 – April 21, 2021
2. Kansas – SB55 – April 22, 2021
4. Indiana – HB1041 – March 21, 2022 (later overridden)
5. Utah – HB11 – March 22, 2022 (later overridden)
6. Kentucky – SB83 – April 6, 2022 (later overridden)
7. Kansas – SB160 – April 15, 2022
9. Kansas – HB2238 – March 17, 2023 (later overridden)

Note: in March 2021, the South Dakota governor initially issued a “Style and Form veto” (for HB1217), meaning she would sign the bill if the legislature approved her suggested amendments. The legislature did not, so the bill failed, but she immediately issued bans via executive order.

State-by-State Sources and More Detail

Alabama
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See HB391 (2021), applies to K-12. See also HB261 (2023), applies to higher education.

Alaska
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Arizona
- State law bans* transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See SB1165 (March 2022). Applies to K-12 and higher education.
  - *Currently, a temporary injunction is blocking this law from being enforced (issued July 2023), but the case is still active in the court system pending further judicial review. See Doe et al. v. Horne et al (filed April 2023).

Arkansas
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See HB1570/SB354 (March 2021). Applies to K-12 and higher education.

California
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Colorado
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity
Connecticut
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Delaware
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

District of Columbia
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Florida
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See S1028 (June 2021). Applies to secondary and higher education.

Georgia
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Hawai`i
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Idaho
- State law bans* transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See HB500 (March 2020). Applies to K-12 and higher education.
  - *Currently, a temporary injunction is blocking enforcement of the law, but the case is still active in the court system pending further judicial review. See Hecox v. Little (August 2020).

Indiana
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See HB1041 (May 2022), overriding governor’s veto. Applies to K-12 and higher education.
  - In July 2022, a lawsuit was filed challenging this law (see A.M. v. Indianapolis Public Schools). In August 2022, a temporary injunction blocked enforcement of the law, pending further judicial review. However, in January 2023, the lawsuit was dropped due to the plaintiff changing schools, and as a result, the case will be dismissed and the injunction vacated.

Illinois
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Note: The information on states with specific legislation or court cases is subject to change, and it is always recommended to check the most current resources for the most accurate information.
Iowa
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See HF2416 (March 2022). Applies to K-12 and higher education.

Kansas
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See HB2238 (April 2023), overriding governor’s veto. Applies to K-12 and higher education.

Kentucky
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See SB83 (April 2022), overriding governor’s veto. Applies to grades 6-12 and higher education.

Louisiana
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See SB44 (June 2022), enacted without governor’s signature. Applies to K-12 and higher education.

Maine
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Maryland
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Massachusetts
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Michigan
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Minnesota
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Mississippi
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See SB2536 (March 2021). Applies to K-12 and higher education.
Missouri
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See SB39 (June 2023). Applies to K-12 and higher education.

Montana
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See HB112 (May 2021). Applies to K-12 and higher education*.
  - *A court order has ruled this law unconstitutional as it relates to higher education, but the order did not apply to K-12. See order filed (Sept 2022) in Barrett et al. v. Montana.

Nebraska
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Nevada
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

New Hampshire
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

New Jersey
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

New Mexico
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

New York
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

North Carolina
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

North Dakota
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See HB1249 (K-12) and HB1489 (higher education) (both signed April 2023). Applies to K-12 and higher education.
Ohio
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Oklahoma
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See SB2 (March 2022). Applies to K-12 and higher education.

Oregon
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Pennsylvania
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Rhode Island
- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

South Carolina
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See H4608 (May 2022). Applies to K-12 and higher education.

South Dakota
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See SB46 (February 2022). Applies to K-12 and higher education.
- Previously, state policy, via executive order, banned transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See Executive Order 2021-05 (March 2021; K-12) and Executive Order 2021-06 (March 2021; higher education).

Tennessee
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See SB228/HB3 (March 2021), applies to middle and high school (5th-12th grades). See also SB2153/HB2316 (May 6, 2022), applies to higher education.
- See also HB1895/SB1861 (April 22, 2022), requiring that schools that do not comply to lose state funding, and HB306/SB1237 (April 28, 2023), extending high school ban to private schools.

Texas
- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See HB25 (Oct 2021, effective 1/18/22; K-12) and SB15 (June 2023, effective 9/1/23; higher education).
Utah

- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See HB11 (March 2022), overriding governor’s veto. Applies to K-12.
- *Currently, a temporary injunction is blocking enforcement of the law, but the case is still active in the court system pending further judicial review. See Roe v. Utah High School Activities Association (August 2022).

Vermont

- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Virginia

- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Washington

- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

West Virginia

- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See HB3293 (April 2021). Applies to secondary and higher education.
- *Currently, a temporary injunction is blocking enforcement of the law, but the case is still active in the court system pending further judicial review. See BPJ v. West Virginia State Board of Education (filed May 2021).
  - In July 2021, a temporary injunction blocked enforcement of the law, pending further judicial review.
  - In January 2023, a court ruled that West Virginia can enforce its law.
  - In February 2023, the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals stayed the January 2023 decision and granted a new injunction blocking enforcement of the law again, as the case continues to unfold.

Wisconsin

- State law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Wyoming

- State law bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See SF133 (March 2023), enacted without governor’s signature. Applies to grades 7-12.
U.S. Territories

American Samoa
- Territory law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Guam
- Territory law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Northern Mariana Islands
- Territory law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

Puerto Rico
- Territory law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity

U.S. Virgin Islands
- Territory law does not ban transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity