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LGBTQ Youth: Bans on Transgender Youth Participation in Sports

No updates required since August 21, 2023

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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 1: Summary and Legislation

Category	Count	List	Bill Link	Year
States that ban transgender students from playing sports according to their gender identity	23 states	Alabama	HB391 (K-12) HB261 (college)	2021 2023
		Arizona	SB1165	2022
		Arkansas	HB1570/SB354	2021
		Florida	S1028	2021
		Idaho	HB500	2020
		Indiana	HB1041	2022
		Iowa	HF2416	2022
		Kansas	HB2238	2023
		Kentucky	SB83	2022
		Louisiana	SB44	2022
		Mississippi	SB2536	2021
		Montana	HB112	2021
		Missouri	SB39	2023
		North Carolina	H574	2023
		North Dakota	HB1249 (K-12) HB1489 (college)	2023
		Oklahoma	SB2	2022
		South Carolina	H4608	2022
		South Dakota	SB46	2022
		Tennessee	HB3 (5-12) HB2316 (college)	2021 2022
		Texas	HB25 (K-12) SB15 (college)	2021 2023
		Utah	HB11	2022
		West Virginia	HB3293	2021
		Wyoming	SF133	2023



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States with no ban	27 states, D.C., + 5 territories	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 Ohio Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island Vermont Virginia Washington Wisconsin American Samoa Guam Northern Mariana Islands Puerto Rico U.S. Virgin Islands		
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Table 2: Grade Applicability of Existing Bans

Category	States
States that ban transgender students from participating in sports... <i>(23 states total)</i>	
...in K-12 and college (16)	Alabama Arizona Arkansas Idaho Indiana Iowa Kansas Louisiana Mississippi Missouri Montana* - college part ruled unconstitutional North Dakota Oklahoma South Carolina South Dakota Texas
...in grades 5-12 and college (1)	Tennessee
...in grades 6-12 and college (2)	Kentucky North Carolina
...in “secondary” schools and college (2)	Florida West Virginia
...in K-12 only (1)	Utah
...in grades 7-12 only (1)	Wyoming
No bans or restrictions <i>(27 states, DC, + 5 territories)</i>	All others



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Table 3: “Proof” of Sex/Gender in Existing Bans

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

State	Applicability	“Proof” of Sex/Gender	Other notes
Alabama	K-12 and college	Does not specify	
Arizona	K-12 and college	Does not specify	Currently blocked by temporary court order
Arkansas	K-12 and college	Does not specify	
Florida	Secondary and college	Original birth certificate	
Idaho	K-12 and college	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.”	Currently blocked by temporary court order
Indiana	K-12 and college	Does not specify, but refers to “biological sex at birth in accordance with the student’s genetics and reproductive biology...”	
Iowa	K-12 and college	Original birth certificate	
Kansas	K-12 and college	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.” 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.	
Kentucky	6-12 and college	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”	
Louisiana	K-12 and college	Original birth certificate	
Mississippi	K-12 and college	Does not specify	
Missouri	K-12 and college	Original birth certificate	Ban will expire in four years (August 28, 2027)

(Table continued on next page)



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State	Applicability	"Proof" of Sex/Gender	Other notes
Montana	K-12 and college*	Does not specify	*College ban ruled unconstitutional, but K-12 ban still in effect.
North Carolina	6-12 and college	Does not specify, but says "...a student's sex shall be recognized based solely on the student's reproductive biology and genetics at birth."	
North Dakota	K-12 and college	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."	
Oklahoma	K-12 and college	For all athletes, requires parental affidavit (or, if athlete is 18+, affidavit from the athlete) attesting to their athlete's sex assigned at birth.	
South Carolina	K-12 and college	Original birth certificate	
South Dakota	K-12 and college	Original birth certificate	
Tennessee	5-12 and college	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."	
Texas	K-12 and college	Original birth certificate or, if birth certificate not available, another government ID	
Utah	K-12	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." Specifies that if the total ban is overturned by a court ruling, sport participation would be based on a student's original birth certificate, but that a new commission would be created to determine exceptions on a case-by-case basis.	Currently blocked by temporary court order
West Virginia	Secondary and college	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."	Currently blocked by temporary court order
Wyoming	7-12	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, 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".	



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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, + 2 states expanding existing bans)

- 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
13. Oklahoma – [SB2](#) – March 30, 2022
14. Arizona – [SB1165](#) – March 30, 2022
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 (5 new states this year, + 2 states expanding existing bans)

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
23. North Carolina – [H574](#) – August 16, 2023

Order of Governor Vetoes

1. North Dakota – [HB1298](#) – April 21, 2021
2. Kansas – [SB55](#) – April 22, 2021



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3. Louisiana – [SB156](#) – June 21, 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
8. Pennsylvania – [HB972](#) – July 8, 2022
9. Kansas – [HB2238](#) – March 17, 2023 (later overridden)
10. North Carolina – [HB574](#) – July 5, 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



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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](#) (filed April 2020). The temporary injunction was issued in August 2020, and in August 2023, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld this injunction.

Illinois

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



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.

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 bans transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity. See [H574/S631](#) (August 2023), overriding governor's veto. Applies to middle school ([defined in state law](#) as grades 6-9), high school, and higher education.

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.



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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