



# LYNDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Tradition + Pride + Excellence*

September 5, 2024

Mick Hoffman, Executive Director  
Washington Interscholastic Activities Association  
435 Main Avenue South  
Renton, WA 98057

Dear Mr. Hoffman-

As members of the Lynden School District's Board of Directors, we are writing to address a pressing concern within our community regarding the participation of transgender athletes who are biologically male in sports designated for females.

As a school board, we are committed to equity, fairness, and the well-being of all students. We recognize the importance of ensuring that every student has the opportunity to participate fully in school activities, including sports. However, recent developments have underscored significant challenges within our current athletic framework. The participation of transgender athletes who were assigned male at birth in female sports categories has raised legitimate concerns about fairness, safety, and the competitive balance for female athletes.


In light of these concerns, we respectfully request your support in changing current WIAA Gender Identity Participation policies to provide clear guidance on athlete participation in school sports that uphold fairness in competition while protecting the rights and dignity of all students. We recognize that these changes are not wholly the responsibility of WIAA and in some cases not attainable within current interpretations of state law. Specifically, we propose the following considerations for action:

1. **Legislative Review and Guidance:** We urge you to initiate a thorough review of existing laws and communicate with the state legislature the importance of them providing clear legislative guidance on how school districts can navigate the participation of transgender athletes in sports. Legislative guidance should be informed by scientific evidence and aim to maintain fair competition for all students.
2. **Support for Equitable Practices:** Advocate for legislative measures that allow all athletes to participate in high school sports while also implementing necessary safeguards to ensure fair competition for all students.
3. **Collaboration with School Districts:** Work collaboratively with school districts to develop inclusive policies while also upholding the competitive integrity of girls' sports.

By working together as key stakeholders, we believe WIAA and legislators can find balanced solutions that support inclusivity while preserving the fairness and integrity of school sports programs. Your leadership and support on this critical matter would be invaluable to our efforts.

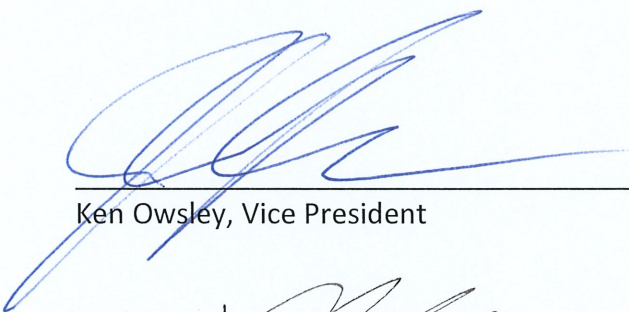
Thank you for your attention to this important issue affecting our students and community. We look forward to discussing this further and working towards changes that benefit all students in the Lynden School District.

Sincerely,  
Lynden School District Board of Directors



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Tonya Hickman, President



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Ken Owsley, Vice President



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Khush Brar, Board Director



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Danny Martinez, Board Director



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Jim Verburg, Board Director