



TO:Superintendents, Principals and Athletic DirectorsFROM:Monica Maxwell, Assistant Executive DirectorSUBJECT:2023-24 Title IX Support Zooms and Resources

As a new school year begins, it is a good time to remind all school personnel to take a moment and review their policies and procedures regarding possible Title IX issues in their school.

This year, the OSAA and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) will provide three opportunities for Title IX Zoom calls to review the basics of Title IX, best practices for schools and athletics programs as well as updated OCR and ODE guidance for schools.

Title IX Support Zoom:

September 21, 2023 October 19, 2023 March 13, 2024 10-11:15a 9-10am 10-11:15am Title IX 101 for Athletic Staff Title IX Office Hours Title IX 101 for Athletic Staff

Some questions to reflect on regarding Title IX and your athletics programs:

HAS YOUR SCHOOL/DISTRICT PARTICIPATED IN A SPORTS-BASED INTEREST SURVEY WITHIN THE PAST TWO YEARS?

Was the survey gender-specific, specifying who was being measured and where an interest lies? What action has the school/district taken to respond to the results of the survey?

The survey is a proactive way for your school to plan and document that you are meeting the athletic needs of your students. Without a survey, schools and districts will find it very difficult to show to an OCR investigator how you determined that you are meeting the needs of your underrepresented students (in most cases the female student).

DOES THE POLICY AND PRACTICE OF SCHOOL-UTILIZED FACILITIES PROVIDE COMPARABLE AMENITIES AND ACCESS FOR PRACTICE AND COMPETITION?

Is there equal access to the gym(s), training room, weight room(s)? Are the locker rooms and team rooms for the boys and girls comparable? Are the practice and game facilities for the boys' and the girls' teams comparable? (If the baseball field has brick dugouts, does the softball field have comparable dugouts?) Do the boys have facilities on campus, but the girls have to travel to their facilities?

Title IX states that we need to treat all of our teams equitably, regardless of gender, when it comes to the use of school facilities. This also applies to schools that use "off-campus" facilities.

For more information including team, building and district self-evaluation toolkits, as well as webinar recordings and articles, please visit the <u>Title IX resources</u> on the OSAA Website. Here are some of the articles available:

- » Softball and Baseball Facilities
- » Nine Ways Title IX Protects High School Students
- » Suggestions for Improving Equal Opportunity
- » Sports Fundraising and Gender Equity
- » Tough Times and Tough Decisions
- » Booster Clubs and Facilities: How Equity Impacts Both
- » Oversight of Booster Clubs Essential for Gender Equity