



The Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR) is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing civil rights and liberties for all Americans, and promoting a common culture based on fairness, understanding and humanity.

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*The FAIR Metro West chapter encourages use of FAIR materials and resources to anchor difficult discussions, find common ground and differentiate between good intentions and the real-world effects of proposals and positions.*

## FAIR Statement on: Gender in Schools

FAIR believes that we must teach children the objective truth on matters of scientific fact. We advocate for age-appropriate instruction around sex, with biology and science as foundational before considering more controversial ideas around gender and gender identity. Many schools, however, are teaching children that gender and biological sex are spectrums—with many different points and labels within them, and with “gender” unconnected to “biological sex.” This approach aims to account for a wide range of identities.

The idea of a “spectrum” sounds flexible, but the way it is being taught in some schools requires children to reject biology and to accept and reinforce gender norms and stereotypes. Too often when children exhibit behaviors or preferences that don’t match up with the stereotypes of their biological sex, they are told it’s a sign that they’re transgender. This risks confusing children, whose identity formation and self-understanding are still developing. This confusion can lead some to consider serious and irreversible medical interventions. We advocate giving children the space to play, imagine, and explore, without forcing them into labels or rigid categories.

Moreover, FAIR supports complete and open communication between parents/guardians and educators in order to promote what is best for children. As with other psychological, emotional, social, or academic issues that children may face at school, educators should inform families when a child is experiencing confusion or dysphoria around gender at school. According to the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), “parents...are better situated than others to understand the unique needs of their children and to make appropriate, caring decisions regarding their children’s health care.” That is because parents and guardians know their children best, and we support their constitutional right to make the determination of what is best for their children.

FAIR's position is to support healthy and transparent partnerships among parents/guardians, educators, and medical professionals who are fulfilling their professional obligations with the appropriate standard of care and knowledge of all sides of a clinical debate. The best approach to children's gender confusion or dysphoria is for children to be treated as whole human beings—whose growth and development are still evolving—rather than being essentialized into a rigid or medicalized group identity.

Sincerely,  
FAIR Metro West, MA Chapter



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