



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 7, 2025

Tabitha Branum
Superintendent of Schools
Richardson Independent School District
400 S. Greenville Ave.
Richardson, TX 75081

via email to: tabitha.branum@risd.org

RE: *Richardson ISD policies regarding transgender youth in interscholastic athletics*

Superintendent Branum,

It has come to our attention that Ms. Angie Lee, your Executive Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for Richardson Independent School District, was filmed advising a parent on the school district's policies on transgender participation in interscholastic sports. Specifically, Ms. Lee advised the parent that if their biologically male highschooler were on a school trip involving overnight stays at a hotel, that the district would allow that biologically male student to share a hotel room with female students. It is also implied in the video that your district allows the participation of biologically male students in girls' sports in violation of state law. Ms. Lee further stated that your district's general counsel has dealt with all kinds of issues related to transgender students, and then chuckles about how your district has yet to end up in the news over it. As you are aware, the 87th Legislature, 3rd C.S., passed H.B. 25, codified as Section 33.0834 of the Texas Education Code, to prohibit a student from competing in interscholastic athletic competitions designated for the opposite biological sex. The advice given by Ms. Lee seeks to directly circumvent this law and abdicate the district's duty to protect interscholastic athletic opportunities for girls. Further, Governor Abbott has consistently reiterated that Texas only recognizes two sexes and that all state policy should reflect this fact, including TEA and UIL policies regarding interscholastic sports.

Our office remains concerned that her advice may reflect an unstated policy of Richardson I.S.D. to not uphold the rule of law. Therefore, this office requests the following documents pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code:

- All policies and training material related to compliance with the requirements of H.B. 25;
- All policies and training material related to overnight stays of students while on school sponsored trips,
- Any materials or communications, including emails, between district employees regarding allowing a student to compete in interscholastic athletic competitions designated for the opposite of their biological sex;

- Any communications, including emails, to district employees regarding the determination of a student's eligibility to participate in interscholastic sports based on sex, including the use of birth certificates or other governmental documents; and
- Any organizational charts documenting Ms. Lee's placement within the Richardson ISD management structure.

Please provide our office with the requested documents within 10 business days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven Ogle

Steven Ogle

Assistant Attorney General

Administrative Law Division

P.O. Box 12548, Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711-2548

Ph: (512) 475-4151

Fax: (512) 320-0167

steven.ogle@oag.texas.gov

cc:

request.publicinformation@risd.org