



*April 17, 2026* ~ **Olathe Public Schools Responds to Investigation of Alleged Title IX and FERPA Violations**

On Thursday, Aug. 14, 2025, Olathe Public Schools was informed that the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) were investigating the school district for alleged Title IX and FERPA violations. Olathe Public Schools is and has always been steadfast in its communication that we have not and do not violate state and federal law.

Unfortunately, this topic has become highly political and Olathe Public Schools and others have been thrust into the midst of political theatre and forced to respond to allegations that are completely unfounded or being grossly misrepresented, all on taxpayer time and money.

The district has complied with the investigation process, acted in good faith, and has worked to seek a resolution agreement. This commitment to moving forward and seeking resolution, however, has not been reciprocated. In fact, it has been far different from any other collaborative experience the district has had with the Department of Education and its staff. Discussions with these organizations did not occur in good faith, and there was a complete lack of any meaningful investigation. The result was findings not supported by information, but by incorrect and predetermined decisions.

To be clear, Olathe Public Schools is bound by law to provide a free and appropriate public education to **all students**. When working with families, we adhere to state and federal laws, as well as the Kansas High School Athletic Association's (KSHSAA) guidelines when it comes to interscholastic and intramural athletic programs.

Throughout the investigation, OCR and SPPO have attempted to retroactively hold Olathe Public Schools accountable to laws and executive orders that were not applicable during the period in question. In addition, there are several inaccuracies within the Department of Education's latest press release related to their findings, including a statement that Olathe Public Schools "violated Title IX with policies that allow students to use restrooms, locker rooms, and changing rooms based on 'gender identity.'" The district has no such policies.

To be abundantly clear, Olathe has been in compliance - and will continue to comply with - all state and federal laws, while also continuing to safeguard the rights of all students and parents/guardians.



Attached is the latest communication sent to OCR and SPPO outlining the district's compliance with all issues raised.

Our priority is, and has always been, to focus on academics. This investigation has pulled substantial time and resources away from our ability to focus on academic excellence and the wellbeing of our students and staff. We remain committed to placing student learning and educational excellence as our top priority.

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**About the Olathe Public Schools:** The Olathe School District is the largest school district in the Kansas City metropolitan area and is located southwest of Kansas City, in Johnson County, Kan. The district serves students from Olathe and parts of Lenexa and Overland Park. Home to more than 28,000 students and 5,000 staff members, the district's vision is Their Future is Our Future. For more information about the Olathe Public Schools, visit the district's website at [www.olatheschools.org](http://www.olatheschools.org).