ISSAQUAH PTSA COUNCIL 2.6
Advocating and Supporting our Schools & Community

Issaquah PTSA Council's Resolution on the Passage of I-638

Approved by Issaquah PTSA Council Board on 11/16/2026

Resolution

WHEREAS Washington State PTA supports girls' athletics and sex equity in sports, and its board opposed IL26-638 and recommended that local PTAs and councils adopt that position;

WHEREAS the Issaquah PTSA Council general membership voted on September 24, 2026

to align with Washington State PTA and oppose I-638, and voters approved I-638 on November 3, 2026, with the law set to take effect December 3, 2026, unless a court intervenes;

WHEREAS the Council Board is responsible for carrying out the positions adopted by the Council membership;

WHEREAS I-638 requires every student seeking to play a girls' sport, not only transgender students, to obtain medical verification of biological sex, and imposes no comparable requirement on boys' sports;

WHEREAS I-638 does not define "biological sex" or "biologically male," sets no thresholds for its verification methods, and provides no process or appeal for students, including intersex students or girls with naturally elevated testosterone, whose results are unclear or conflicting;

WHEREAS the WIAA's current sports physical forms have no field for sex, so I-638 creates a new, provider-signed document about students' bodies that goes to schools, with no stated rules for confidentiality, storage, or handling;

WHEREAS genetic and hormone testing is costly and unlikely to be covered by insurance, which may make an intimate, clinically unnecessary exam the most accessible option and place the greatest burden on lower-income, uninsured, and rural families and those without a regular provider;

WHEREAS the WIAA knows of roughly ten transgender athletes among more than 200,000 student athletes statewide, about one in 20,000, making statewide verification for every girl disproportionate to the stated concern;

WHEREAS The Trevor Project's 2024 national survey found that 14% of transgender and nonbinary youth reported attempting suicide in the past year, and forced disclosure and exclusion heighten risk for transgender and gender-nonconforming students;

WHEREAS the State Superintendent's office has raised concern that the new requirements may discourage *any* girl from playing school sports;

WHEREAS WSPTA's opposition applies member-adopted Resolutions 2.13 Youth Suicide Prevention, 2.18 Trauma Informed Care, 2.19 LGBTQIA2S+ Safety and Inclusion, 11.26 Supporting the Mental and Behavioral Health Needs of Children and Youth, 11.30 Equitable Access to Recess, and 11.33 Ensuring Access to Healthcare;

WHEREAS on November 9, 2026, the Seattle School Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2026/27-11 authorizing Seattle Public Schools to pursue legal action on I-638, finding that its requirements apply only to girls' athletics and could subject girls to scrutiny and invasions of privacy not imposed on boys, and reaffirming its commitment to schools that are safe, inclusive, affirming, and supportive for all children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Issaquah PTSA Council Board affirms that the position opposing I-638, adopted by the Council membership on September 24, 2026 in alignment with Washington State PTA, remains in effect now that the measure has been enacted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board, on behalf of the Council, requests that the Issaquah School Board and administration commit, in writing and before December 3, 2026, to the actions below.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will report this action to the membership at the next General Membership Meeting.

Requests to the School Board and Administration

1. Protections for our most marginalized students

- Reaffirm the district's nondiscrimination, gender-inclusive schools, and harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) policies, and say publicly that they remain in full force.
- Ensure no student is outed. Gender identity information must not be disclosed beyond what the law strictly requires for an eligibility decision.
- Treat verification statements as confidential health information. Limit access to the fewest staff needed, store them apart from general student files, keep them no longer than necessary, and share them with no one beyond the eligibility decision.
- State clearly that no district employee will examine, question, or challenge a student's body or sex.
- Create a respectful, private process, with an appeal, for students whose verification is unclear or conflicting, including intersex students and girls with medical conditions affecting hormone levels.
- Watch for and act quickly on harassment, rumors, or targeting of any student, including girls whose appearance is questioned.

- Prevent harassment before it starts. Tell students, families, coaches, and spectators clearly that questioning or commenting on a student's body, appearance, or sex is harassment under district HIB policy. Train coaches, athletic staff, and student leaders to step in when they see it. Set the same sportsmanship expectations for visiting teams and fans at games.
- Keep inclusive options open where the law allows, such as intramurals and activities without sex classifications, so excluded students still have a place to belong.

2. Stronger mental health supports

- Reach out proactively to LGBTQIA2+ students through GSAs and other established student clubs before and after December 3 to explain new procedures, affirm that HIB policies will be strictly enforced, and listen to concerns so supports and policies can be adjusted.
- Train coaches, athletic staff, and counselors on affirming, trauma-informed responses and on the confidentiality requirements above.
- Publicize crisis and support resources, including the district's existing counseling referral services and LGBTQ+-specific resources such as The Trevor Project.
- Use school climate and Healthy Youth Survey data to track well-being and adjust supports.

3. Equity and access for all girls

- Pursue School-Based Health Center services in the district, through partnerships with Public Health – Seattle & King County and community health providers, that offer sports physicals and verification at no or low cost, so no girl misses a season because of cost or access.
- Make sure families know all three verification options and are not steered toward an intimate exam.
- Track girls' sports participation and report any drop.

4. Clear, timely communication with families

- Send families a plain-language, translated explanation before winter sports registration and before December 3: what's required, how records are protected, costs and help available, and who to contact.
- Name a district point of contact for questions and concerns.
- Include the PTSA Council and student voices, especially LGBTQIA2S+ students and families, in shaping implementation and communications.

5. Advocacy and legal action

- Implement only what the law requires, and no more.
- Follow the pending litigation and consider joining or supporting legal challenges, as the Seattle School Board authorized for Seattle Public Schools on November 9, 2026.
- Tell our state legislators how I-638 affects Issaquah students and support amendments that protect student privacy, health, and safety.

6. Accountability

- Report back publicly at a School Board meeting by January 2027 on how records are handled, which supports are in place, and what participation and climate data show.