



New Mexico PARENTS' GUIDE

**Gender Ideology in Public Schools:
What Parents Need to Know**

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STATE POLICIES & PUBLIC OPINION

New Mexico has several extreme laws and school policies related to gender identity:

- **HB 7**, passed in 2023, prohibits public institutions, including K-12 schools, from declining to treat individuals seeking procedures related to gender transitioning. If a public body is found to be in violation of HB 7, it will face a \$5,000 fine plus attorney's fees.
- **New Mexico's Medicaid program** [covers](#) hormones and surgeries for minors who identify as transgender. This [may change](#) under new federal rules.
- **Eight school districts** in New Mexico have policies stating that school personnel can or should hide children's transgender status from their parents:
 - Albuquerque
 - Gadsden Independent
 - Gallup-McKinley
 - Las Cruces
 - Los Alamos
 - Moriarty-Edgewood
 - Rio Rancho
 - Santa Fe

What New Mexicans Think

90%
support
keeping
bathrooms and
locker rooms
separated by
biological sex in
K-12 schools.

88%
disagree
with allowing
teachers or school
nurses to socially
or medically
transition children
without telling
their parents.

77%
are concerned
about laws that
make it easier
for minors under
18 to access
medical transition
treatments
without parental
involvement.

REAL STORIES FROM NEW MEXICO

- **Rachael Hein, Las Cruces mom**, discovered her daughter's high school received a \$10,000 grant to create a "trans closet." The money was instead spent on 200 chest binders and pro-gender books. She and her family moved out of New Mexico.

- **Layla Carter, Las Cruces mom**, reports gender-neutral bathrooms, state-funded binders, and secret clubs. She is considering homeschooling.

- **Monika Bialostocka, Santa Fe mom**, says she was gaslit and ignored after questioning ideologically driven school assemblies, a transgender closet, and a required novel containing graphic pedophilia content. One of her daughters left for homeschooling.

- **Mateo Cruz, Las Cruces dad**, pulled his children from public school after seeing boys in girls' restrooms/sports and explicit library books. The family now homeschools.

- **Patrick Kimbell, New Mexico dad**, says he lost contact with his daughter after she began medical transition. He describes New Mexico's laws as among the most extreme in the country.

- **Paula Edwards, New Mexico teacher**, exposes the hidden crisis in the state's classrooms, including chronic absenteeism, weak discipline, and policies requiring staff to socially transition young children as young as five without parental notification.

Many parents report being told their concerns were **not valid or that they were **being "bigoted."****

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS PARENTS

As a parent in New Mexico, you have important rights regarding your child's education and well-being.

1. RIGHT TO BE INFORMED

Schools should not keep major decisions about your child (including social or gender-related matters) secret from you.

2. RIGHT TO REVIEW MATERIALS

You can request to see curriculum, books, videos, and lesson plans used in your child's classes.

3. RIGHT TO OPT OUT

New Mexico law allows parents to opt their children out of sex education and other sensitive topics.

4. RIGHT TO ACCESS RECORDS

Under federal law (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA) you have the right to review your child's educational records.

5. RIGHT TO BE HEARD

You can ask questions, raise concerns, and request meetings with teachers, principals, and school board members.

6. RIGHT TO ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS

Parents may attend school board meetings and provide public comment in accordance with district procedures.

7. RIGHT TO CHOOSE ALTERNATIVES

You have the freedom to explore homeschooling, private school, or charter options if you feel public school policies conflict with your values or your child's best interests.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PARENT CHECKLIST

Use this checklist at the start of the school year (or anytime) to stay informed and involved. Parents should begin by asking school administrators, such as the principal, assistant principal, or district office, because classroom teachers may not always know the school or district-level policies.

CHECKLIST:



- ☐ Visit your child's classroom and review the lesson plans, books, and materials, student handbook, and code of conduct used by the school.
- ☐ What is the school or district policy on students using different names or pronouns? Do they notify parents?
- ☐ Are there gender-neutral bathrooms, locker rooms, or changing areas? Which students have access?
- ☐ Are there any clubs, assemblies, or activities related to gender identity or LGBTQ+ topics?
- ☐ What training do staff receive on gender issues, and does it include keeping information from parents?
- ☐ How can I review all health, sex education, and social-emotional learning materials in advance?
- ☐ What happens if my child expresses confusion about gender or identity at school—will I be informed?

ROADMAP: HOW TO RESPECTFULLY RAISE A CONCERN AT SCHOOL

Follow these steps when you have a concern:

1 | START WITH THE APPROPRIATE SCHOOL OFFICIAL

- For classroom-specific concerns, begin with the teacher
- For questions about school or district policies, begin with the principal or another school administrator.
- Send a polite, factual email. Example: "I noticed my child brought home materials that [mention specific concerning content]. Can you help me understand the context and school policy on this?"

2 | REQUEST A MEETING WITH THE PRINCIPAL

- If the teacher's response is unclear or unsatisfactory, schedule a meeting. Bring specific examples and stay calm and solution-focused.

3 | PUT IT IN WRITING

- Follow up every conversation with an email summarizing what was discussed and any agreements made.

4 | ESCALATE IF NEEDED

- Contact the district's curriculum director or superintendent's office.
- Attend school board meetings and speak during public comment (keep it under 2–3 minutes and fact-based).
- Submit a public records request for policies, training materials, grants, or communications. Information about the process is typically available on your district's website, or parents can contact a school board member or district office for assistance.

5 | Document everything

- Keep a folder with dates, names, emails, and notes. This protects you if the issue continues.

RESOURCES

- [Independent Women's New Mexico Report](#)
- [IW Features' New Mexico Stories and Reporting](#)
- [New Mexico Public Education Department \(NMPED\)](#)

INDEPENDENT WOMEN MISSION STATEMENT

**Independent Women's
unique methods and
trusted brand shape public
preferences, policies, and
movements to create a
better future for everyone.**
