

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.



FAIR Twin Cities applies FAIR's pro-human principles to the challenges, public policy questions and civic complexities facing Minnesota. We serve as a resource to Minnesota institutions, schools, businesses and citizens. We advocate for one human race, individual civil rights and liberties, and compassionate opposition to racism and intolerance that is rooted in dignity and our common humanity. We encourage 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 Issues 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 on them 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. The pro-human approach is to give 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](https://www.fairforall.org/twin-cities/), “parents...are better situated than others to understand the unique needs of

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Email: twin-cities@fairforall.org

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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 pro-human 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 essentialized into a rigid or medicalized group identity.

We believe that our values of constructive and open dialogue, understanding, curiosity, compassion, and courage can help individuals navigate the complex issues facing educators, parents/guardians, and children.

- [Read FAIR’s letter to the California Department of Education regarding its gender policies for public schools](#) ¹

¹ <https://www.fairforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Letter-to-Mr-Thurmond-Ms-Dunlap.pdf>