



County of Santa Clara

Office of Women's Policy

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San Jose, California 95110

Title IX Fact Sheet

Background

- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 was enacted on June 23, 1972, and states: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”
- Title IX was authored by Hawaii Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first non-Caucasian woman in Congress, as a result of her own experiences with gender discrimination in high school, college, applying to medical school and attending law school. After her death on September 28, 2002, President Bush renamed Title IX on October 29, 2002 to become the “Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act”.
- Title IX addresses ten major areas: Athletics, Access to Higher Education, Career Education, Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students, Employment, Learning Environment, Math and Science, Sexual Harassment, Standardized Testing, and Technology.
- The Office of Civil Rights (“OCR”) of the Department of Education enforces compliance with Title IX. OCR investigates complaints and independently conducts compliance reviews of institutions receiving federal funds. Compliance is measured by satisfying any one prong of the following three-prong test:
 - Providing athletic opportunities that are substantially proportionate to the student enrollment
 - Demonstrating a continual expansion of athletic opportunities for the underrepresented gender
 - Full and effective accommodation of the interest and ability of underrepresented gender

Benefits of Sports for Girls and Women

- Sports teach girls teamwork, goal setting, and pursuit of excellence in performance. 80% of female executives at Fortune 500 companies played one or more sports in high school. (Women’s Sports Foundation, 2000)
- Girls who participate in as little as four hours of exercise per week may reduce their lifelong risk of breast cancer by up to 60%. (Journal of the National Cancer Institute, 1994)
- Adequate weight-bearing exercise in high school and college years is crucial in preventing osteoporosis, a \$15 billion per year health problem occurring in 1 of 2 women over the age of 60. (Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise, 1996)
- Girls and women who participate in sports have higher levels of confidence, a stronger self-image, and lower levels of depression. (Melpomene Institute, 1995)

~Over~

Board of Supervisors: Donald F. Gage, Blanca Alvarado, Pete McHugh, Ken Yeager, Liz Kniss
County Executive: Peter Kutras, Jr.

- High school girls who participate in sports are less likely to experience an unintended pregnancy, less likely to engage in high-risk behavior, and more likely to graduate and receive higher grades. (Women's Sports Foundation, 2000)

Progress Since the Passage of Title IX

- Before Title IX, 1 in 27 girls participated in sports; today (2006) 1 in 3 do.¹
- Since 1972, women's participation in sports has risen 875% in high schools and 437% in colleges.
- From 1981 to 1991, the total number of women's college teams increased by 66%.²
- Seventy-two percent of schools that added women's teams in 1992–93 and 1999–2000 did so without discontinuing any men's teams. (2)

Opportunities for Growth

- Since 1972, the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education has found not one educational institution out of compliance with the athletics regulations and instead negotiates settlements, which are often less than the law requires.
- Approximately 80% of all U.S. high schools and colleges are still not close to compliance with Title IX.
- Girls make up 49% of the high school population, but receive 41.7% of athletic participation opportunities.
- Women comprise 57% of the college student population but receive 42% of the college athletic opportunities, 36% of expenditures, 42% of scholarship money, and 32% of recruitment spending.
- Male college athletes receive 36% more in athletic scholarships than female college athletes (men receive approx \$505 million; women receive \$372 million).
- In Division I-A colleges, football and basketball together consume approximately 72% of athletic budgets.³

Myths and Misconceptions About Title IX

- It is a myth that revenue made from football games funds other sports. In fact, football programs spend more than they make. Nationwide, only 65 of the 1,200 university football programs actually make more than they spend.
- Reported lost participation opportunities in men's sports are a myth. Title IX has actually resulted in a net gain of opportunities in men's sports. For example, while 1,022 men's gymnastics and 2,648 men's wrestling participation opportunities were lost between 1981-82 and 1998-99, men's football, soccer and lacrosse opportunities increased by higher numbers (7,199, 1,932, 2,000, respectively) in the same period. This reflects a natural change in trends and popularity of different sports.

¹ www.womenssportsfoundation.org, 2006.

² http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/girlwrestler/title_9.html

³ <http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/FactsOnTitleIXAthletics.pdf>