



SYDNEY BENSON



DAN LEONE

Far left: Senior Markael Butler plans to attend Michigan State University next fall to play football. Left: Junior Dan Leone pole vaulting. To find out more about these athletes head to page 10.

# NORTH POINTE

GROSSE POINTE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2016

SINCE 1968

## Title IX expands to protect transgender students

By Mora Downs & Sonny Mulpuri  
MANAGING EDITOR & DIGITAL EDITOR



ALEX HARRING & MORA DOWNS

The Departments of Education and Justice released a joint directive that extends Title IX of the Education Amendments to transgender students two weeks ago.

Title IX was first implemented in 1972 and originally prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex in schools. Now, the government has clarified that Title IX also applies to discrimination based on gender identity. Gender identity refers to a mental perception of self, while gender in the traditional sense refers to the gender one is assigned at birth. One's gender identity may differ from their biological gender, qualifying them as transgender. The Obama administration sees trans-

gender rights as a civil rights matter, and has been working to protect them.

Title IX applies to all schools that receive federal funding. Schools must now treat transgender students according to their gender identity and use names and pronouns that the student specifies. This goes into effect as soon as the student or their parent or guardian prompts the school to change their name and gender in the school records. Transgender students must be provided the same opportunities as other students, even if others in the community object.

Transgender students are also allowed to use bathrooms and locker rooms con-

sistent with their gender identity.

Failure to comply with these guidelines or keep a transgender student's information private will result in a Title IX violation, and the loss of federal funding.

The Michigan Department of Education also released a memorandum in February aligned with the interests of the national mandate. But, the state memorandum was merely a suggestion, not an obligation as the Title IX additions are. The state also posed future goals in terms of trans inclusion and trans education. Read to see how the state and national policies differ.

### State

The strategic goals for the state were created by the State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education. According to the memorandum the state is "committed to reducing the impact of high-risk factors and providing equitable resources and access to quality educational opportunities to meet the needs of all students." The goals provided are aimed to prevent any form of harassment as well as educating staff and students about LGBTQ issues. This includes designating a staff member that is a resource for LGBTQ students.

By proposing these goals, the state is hoping to combat bullying directed towards LGBTQ students, which can lead to depression, anxiety and stunted academic goals among victims. Health and educational obstacles are greater among transgender students than in gay, lesbian or bisexual students. The memorandum also says, 26 percent of transgender students were physically assaulted because of their gender identity in the past year.

By trying to create a more comfortable environment, the state expects to see better results for all students by breaking the barrier that has been created over the years. However, the students who are impacted specifically by this initiative are expected to see the greatest increase in performance because they will feel safer in their surroundings in school.

The Department of Education also encourages schools to change unofficial school records along with the official ones. Unofficial records include class and team rosters and any mention in the school's yearbook or newspaper.

The memorandum also addresses school dress codes. The state believes that school dress codes should be gender-neutral and schools should not restrict clothing choices on the basis of gender.

### National

As opposed to the state memorandum, the national statement is mandatory. Breaking Title IX regulations could result in the school losing federal funding.

Protocol is extended to housing and overnight accommodations at the national level. When on an overnight trip, schools must provide housing consistent with gender identity and provide single-occupancy rooms if the student chooses that route.

The national guide also encompasses single-sex classes. Transgender students must be able to attend the class consistent with their gender identity.

Privacy concerning personally identifiable information is also part of the national directive. Disclosing information like a student's birth name or gender assigned at birth is considered potentially harmful to the student and can violate the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

However, public institutions are the only ones under these guidelines. Private and single-sex schools are not forced to follow them, since they do not receive federal funding.

Similarly to single-sex and private schools College fraternities and sororities will also get to choose their path of action, as Title IX does not apply to them. These schools can set their own policies for gender identity if need be.

READ MORE ABOUT THIS DIRECTIVE ON **PAGE 11**

## Rise in online learning forms supplement classwork

By Bella Lawson  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Comprehension of new material in classrooms is difficult to determine without the methods of standardized testing. Online learning sources such as Kahoot, Google Classroom, various social media sites and clickers have become a tool in classrooms to assist academic performance. These devices all reach out to students through something more frequently utilized in their generation: the internet.

According to junior Adam Schade, Kahoot and other learning resources similar to it are very helpful and he enjoys the aspect of competing with his classmates in games.

Google Classroom is a way for teachers to alert students of assignments in class that are due or coming up. It also allows students to receive feedback from their teacher directly on the assignment itself. It is accessible on many devices, not only through the computer, which many students find helpful on-the-go. One feature that appeals to sophomore Jacqueline Squillace is the online submission process.

"I feel like technology is really important. It is so present in everybody's lives," Squillace said. "It's easy because in Google Classroom, you can submit something, so that if your printer isn't working you can always just submit it and (the teacher) can get it."

On the other hand, Kahoot is a game used by teachers to test their students' knowledge on certain subjects the class may be working on. It is a competitive game where players get points for how fast the question is answered and whether or not the answer is correct. Kahoot is used in many foreign language classes to practice vocabulary, prepare for tests and quizzes, but also just for entertainment.

"I like Kahoot—everyone loves it, it's fun. I find it kind of helpful, it's a different way to review and it's interactive, so you actually sort of feel like you're doing something and preparing. So I think it's helpful," Schade said.

Digital Seminar teacher Sean McCarroll uses many different online resources, including social media, to connect his students to their classes.

"You can use technology to do stuff that otherwise you would not have been able to do, and that's what we do in iTech, we use technologies in that room that allow us to do different stuff like prototyping ideas and stuff like that," McCarroll said.

"In terms of review and things, I've used Kahoot before, I've used clickers before. Sometimes the amount of time it takes to set it up detracts from class and doesn't add value to what we're doing. It kind of washes it out, but it's all about how you use it."

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### IDEAS - PAGE 7

**"We create a rosy view of life, an image and brand curated painstakingly to depict our lives and pursuits as colorfully as possible."**



CAITLIN BUSH

### NEWS - PAGE 3

Students walk into the Lochmoor tennis courts during the evacuation drill on Monday, May 16.

### EDITORIAL - PAGE 9

**Correction: last issue's front page headline should have read "Selling notes breaches academic integrity." See page 9 for more information.**

