



TITLE IX at 40

IN IT FOR THE LONG RUN



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26th Annual National Girls & Women in Sports Day

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Title IX at 40: In it for the Long Run

Title IX of the Educational Amendments was enacted in 1972 and states that, “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” This means that, in schools and other educational programs that receive federal money, girls and boys are entitled to equal opportunities, including in school sports. On June 23, 2012, Title IX will turn 40 years old, and, though we’ve come a long way, the push for equity isn’t over. This year’s theme for National Girls & Women in Sports Day is “Title IX at 40: In it for the Long Run.” We want to celebrate how far we’ve come in the last 40 years but also remind everyone that there’s still room to improve.

So, how has Title IX helped girls in school? In high schools, it has helped a lot of girls have opportunities to play sports that they probably wouldn’t have received without Title IX. Did you know that in the 1971-72 school year (the year before Title IX was passed), fewer than 300,000 girls partici-

pated in high school sports, meaning only 7% of the total student-athletes in high school were girls? With the help of Title IX, girls continue to receive more and more athletic opportunities every year. Last school year, there were more than 3 million girls who participated in sports, and they were 41% of high school student-athletes nationwide!

Pretty awesome, isn’t it? We think so, too, which is why we celebrate Title IX. However, we know there’s still progress to be made because, even though girls received more than 3 million opportunities in high school sports last year, boys were given 1.3 million more opportunities than girls. What do you think? Do girls and boys have equal opportunities in sports in your school?

Olympic swimming gold medalist Donna de Varona once said, “Title IX has opened the door for millions of women and girls to not only participate in sports, but to seek opportunities in every educational endeavor however, much work remains to be done to fulfill its promise and vision.” We couldn’t agree more.

Title IX Quiz

1. Which president signed Title IX into law?
a. Clinton b. Nixon c. Reagan
2. What does the “IX” in Title IX stand for?
a. 9 b. 11 c. 10
3. Approximately how many girls currently participate in high school sports?
a. Less than 300,000 b. More than 1.3 million c. More than 3 million

Answers: 1. (b) Nixon 2. (a) 9 3. (c) More than 3 million

Did you know?

- Did you know... Title IX covers three aspects of athletics: participation, scholarships and other benefits and services such as coaching, equipment and facilities?
- Did you know... Schools cannot use the argument that “boys are more interested in sports than girls” to justify providing more participation opportunities for boys than girls?
- Did you know... A school cannot say that boys can be treated better than girls because the booster club of a boys’ team raises more funds?
- Did you know... A girl must be allowed to try out for the boys’ team if there is no girls’ team for her in that sport?
- Did you know... You can make a difference? For more information on pushing for equity and how Title IX affects you, visit: <http://www.WomensSportsFoundation.org/advocate>.

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