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Public meeting on proposed anti-discrimination policy to be held Wednesday

Jessica Bies, The News Journal

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Public comment will be limited to 30 minutes Wednesday night at a meeting to discuss a proposed anti-discrimination policy designed to protect transgender students and other vulnerable groups.

Alison May, spokeswoman for the Delaware Department of Education, said comments will also be limited to what is actually discussed at the meeting, the purpose of which is to "react to and consider changes to the states draft Regulation 225" based on feedback already received during a 30-day public comment period.

She said the meeting is not an opportunity to comment on the regulation itself; that window has passed, though any substantive changes made to the draft policy will trigger another public comment period and give residents another opportunity to weigh in.

"We don't want people to come and be disappointed," May said of Wednesday night's meeting, to be held 6 p.m to 8:15 p.m. at the Del-One Conference Center on the Delaware Technical and Community College Terry Campus.

The proposed policy has been controversial and would allow students to self-identify their race and gender at school — regardless of their age and even if their parents object.

Despite being introduced during the busy holiday season, the draft regulation, along with a companion model policy for local school districts to adapt as they see fit, generated an unprecedented 11,000 public comments from across the country.

## **BACKGROUND:**

[Delaware's transgender students: Separate but equal?](#)

[Regulation will let students self-identify without parental OK](#)

A majority of people came out against the proposal, according to DOE, with in-state residents outnumbering those from outside Delaware.

On social media, opponents of the policy have vowed to come to Wednesday's meeting and make their voices known. Members of the Facebook group [United Opposition to DE Regulation 225](#) say they plan on wearing red, as they have at past meetings.

May said residents interested in commenting do not need to arrive early and that a sign-up sheet for public comment will not be put out until the meeting kicks off.

Parents and other community members will be able to speak from 7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. May said they will be asked to keep their comments under two minutes in order to give as many people as possible an opportunity to speak.

Comments not covered in that 30-minute span will be accepted in writing at the end of the meeting or at [DOEregulations.comment@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:DOEregulations.comment@doe.k12.de.us) until 4:30 p.m. Feb. 1.

An agenda can be found online at <https://publicmeetings.delaware.gov/Meeting/56890>.

[\[Agenda\]](#)

**If you go:**

When: 6-8:15 p.m. Wednesday

Where: Del-One Conference Center, Delaware Technical and Community College Terry Campus, 100 Campus Drive, Dover

<https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/education/2018/01/30/public-meeting-proposed-anti-discrimination-policy-held-wednesday/1079522001/>