

Southern Poverty Law Center, AL, USA

Alliance Defending Freedom continues to attack transgender students in its drive to undermine nondiscrimination protections

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A school district in Palatine, Illinois — District 211 — is back in the national spotlight as a contentious legal battle over transgender-inclusive accommodation policies continues to make its way through the court system.

A [lawsuit](#) was filed in 2017 on behalf of a transgender student who alleged the district, which she alleged was restricting her from [equitable access](#) to changing facilities. Oral arguments for the case were scheduled to take place in the Daley Center in Chicago on Friday January 19. The arguments come three weeks after a federal judge [rejected](#) a request for a preliminary injunction to suspend the current trans-inclusive guidelines in place in the school district.

The request was [submitted](#) by the group “Students and Parents for Privacy” which is represented by [anti-LGBT hate group](#) Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) along with the Thomas More Society. The most recent decision stated that transgender students should be permitted to continue using the restrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity. The judge added that the policy had been in place for three years without incident which undermined the “plaintiffs’ claim of irreparable harm.” Through the ruling does not impact the ultimate outcome of the civil case filed on behalf of the group, it does [suggest](#) that the judge “ doesn't believe the claim at the heart of the lawsuit — that the transgender policy infringes on the privacy rights of other students — has merit.”

This most recent legal struggle comes a year after a [failed campaign](#) to gain a majority share of the school board and a previous legal challenge to the districts’ accommodation policies. In 2015, a trans student from Palatine [filed a complaint](#) after being prohibited from accessing the restrooms and locker rooms appropriate for her gender. The Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education agreed with the student and the district ultimately implemented a more inclusive accommodations policy. As a result, a group of 50 families founded the group Students and Parents for Privacy that continues to fight the trans inclusive policy today.

Alliance Defending Freedom has been hyperfocused on trans students in their ongoing attacks at nondiscrimination protections. Reports by *Media Matters* [documented](#) that ADF has been actively working to undermine policies aimed at protecting trans students in at least eight states, including [Pennsylvania](#), [Wisconsin](#), [Michigan](#) and [Minnesota](#). *Media Matters* reported that representatives from ADF have also been in attendance at several school

board meetings in order to testify against inclusive accommodations policies. ADF has notoriously brought elements of hate and vitriol to public testimonies. At past [school board meetings](#), parents engaged in anti-trans rhetoric and incendiary name calling. ADF has also targeted elected officials with prejudicial testimony, most recently in [Wyoming](#).

<https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2018/01/22/alliance-defending-freedom-continues-attack-transgender-students-its-drive-undermine>