

Illinois Family Institute  
School Board Candidate Questions

**Submitted by Stephanie Odle, Marion CUSD 2**

1. Should biological males who identify as females be able to use the girls bathrooms and locker rooms?
  - I personally believe no and that the student should be given a private area to use the restroom or change clothes because that is a unique situation that will cause this student and other students to be uncomfortable. No student should ever be made to feel uncomfortable in a restroom or locker room. I also understand that laws are in place that have to be followed. So if people don't agree with the laws that have been enacted, they need to work to change the laws and the lawmakers that supported those laws.
2. Should school staff use the preferred pronoun and first name of a child who identifies as the opposite gender they were born with?
  - I personally believe that addressing all children by the first name and pronoun that makes them feel respected is important.
3. Should biological boys compete against biological girls in school sports?
  - My personal belief is no student should compete in a school sport as a gender that doesn't match their biological gender. There are unfair advantages to competing in a sport that doesn't match your biological gender.
4. Should students and employees be forced to mask and get vaxxed to attend government schools?
  - No, everyone should have the freedom of choice and choose whether or not they agree with those personal health decisions and choices.
5. Should children be taught there are more than two genders?
  - I personally believe no. This is not something that should be taught to students at school. If a family or parent has the belief that there are more than two genders, that is their right to teach that belief to their children. It is not the job of the teachers or the school.
6. Should families be able to access a portion of state education funding to use for educational expenses, including private school tuition, tutoring, curriculum, and supplies?
  - Yes, competition is always good and I am in favor of school choice. Parents would have the choice to find an alternative to government schools and use a portion of the state education funding for their choice.

7. Do you support or oppose Governor Pritzker's plan to increase Illinois taxpayer-supported education funding by 6.2% in 2024?

- I oppose Governor Pritzker's plan to increase Illinois taxpayer-supported education funding by 6.2% in 2024. The Illinois budget is already out of control. The answer to improving education isn't to put more money into the same system year after year without making significant changes. Many schools are failing and students are not performing at grade level, so more money isn't the solution. Illinois already spends much more per student than the national average. This means that the money isn't being spent wisely.

8. To increase equity, should school districts eliminate honors classes?

- I believe this question has a two part answer. No, I believe honors classes are important and beneficial if a student is high performing. But I also believe that if the honors classes aren't adhering to a standard and are only honors classes in name only, then they should be eliminated. Honors classes should not be solely used to segregate students and give them a particular status. They should be used for academic purposes and advancement.

9. Should school nurses or other school staff be prohibited from helping students obtain an abortion during or after school hours?

- I personally believe yes they should be prohibited from helping students obtain an abortion. I believe that school nurses and staff should have to contact parents or guardians if a student has expressed a consideration of an abortion. But once again, I also understand that laws are in place that have to be followed. Parental notification was recently changed in the laws in Illinois. So if people don't agree with the laws that have been enacted, they need to work to change the laws and the lawmakers that supported those laws.

10. Should school administrators be required to notify the parents of students who have expressed concerns about their gender identity.

- I personally believe yes they should have to contact parents or guardians if a student has expressed a concern about their gender identity.