

# Title IX:

## A Change for Public Education



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**Grade Levels:** 9-12

**Purpose:** When Title IX was passed in 1972, it dramatically increased opportunities for women in government funded educational institutions. Many students today don't realize the dramatic impact that the Title IX legislation continues to have on their experience in school and sports. This lesson gives students a chance to listen to firsthand accounts of how the legislation impacted students and athletes. This lesson plan is a great way for teachers to bridge the content areas of history, government, and physical education.

**Objectives:** Upon completing the activities presented in this Resource Guide, students will:

- Understand the impact that the Title IX legislation has had on public education and school based athletics.
- Think critically about the ways that government influences educational policies.
- Consider the legacy of this legislation and the ways it has helped transform American society.

**Materials:**

Internet access, Headphones, Audio equipment for listening to interview clips

## Illinois State Learning Standards:

### Early High School

**SS.18.B.4:** Analyze various forms of institutions (e.g., educational, military, charitable, governmental).



### Late High School

**SS.18.B.5** Use methods of social science inquiry (pose questions, collect and analyze data, make and support conclusions with evidence, report findings) to study the development and functions of social systems and report conclusions to a larger audience.



### Early High School:

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.9:

Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

### Late High School:

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12:

Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

## Background Information:

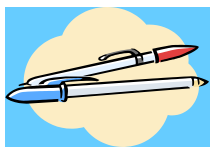
Title IX is a piece of legislation that was passed in 1972 and enforced starting in 1975, which mandates equality of services for men and women in government funded programs, including sports, in schools and other institutions. It was passed during a time of unprecedented gains for the women's rights movement. Although it is known primarily for the changes it brought for girl's and women's athletics, it also contributed to equality in education for both sexes from elementary school to universities, allowing for women to enter STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) more easily, and for women to hold professorships at all Universities. The interviews, from both the *Family Memories* and *Girls Basketball* projects, talk primarily about the changes that Title IX made to athletics, but also serve to provide an introduction to further exploration of the topic.

## Activity:

1. Make the text of Title IX available to students, and give them 5 minutes to read the it. Have them paraphrase it's meaning in their own words, and talk to a partner or small group about it.
2. Give a brief overview of high school and college sports prior to Title IX, and discuss as a class the implications of Title IX. What sports were available for boys and girls at their school prior to the 1970s?
3. Have the students listen to the audio clips about Title IX's impact. Pause between clips for students to record their thoughts on the "Title IX: A Change for Public Education" worksheet.
4. After listening to the clips, talk about the impact of Title IX, specifically focusing on sports, and the impact on the students' lives.
5. Then, give students an excerpt on Title IX's role in equality in education. We recommend the third additional resource, listed below.
6. Allow students to read and take notes, then allow for small group sharing.
7. Discuss the ways in which Title IX impacts each of the students in the classroom, and allow them to provide examples.
8. **Assessment:** Students should write a short response on how Title IX impacts their own educational experiences, and give their opinions on the positive and negative consequences of the

## Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Title IX important?
2. How did Title IX impact sports and education for female students?
3. Is Title IX bad for men's athletics? Why or why not?
4. Do you agree with the Title IX legislation? Why or why not?
5. Do you think that Title IX has removed all discrimination on the basis of sex in school, or is there more progress to be made?



## Tips and Suggestions:

- \* Pair this lesson with our lesson on the Equal Rights Amendment in a unit about Women's Rights or Civil Rights. They work well together!
- \* Use this lesson as a crossover between Physical Education and history or government.

## Interviews:



**Ellyn Bartges:** Ellyn Bartges was a multi-sport varsity athlete in high school, and continued to be active in sports in college, and coached girl's basketball professionally. As part of her doctoral thesis, she conducted interviews with many people involved in girl's and women's basketball. She donated her work to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, and her own interview is part of our *Family Memories* collection.

**Interview:** [Title IX Opens the Door](#) (2:15) **Transcript:** [Click here](#)



**Christine Grant:** Athletic Director at the University of Iowa during the early years of Title IX implementation. Grant is well known for strongly advocating for gender equality in athletics. While Title IX was being debated in Congress, she testified several times and also served as a consultant for the Civil Rights Title IX Task Force. The Institute of International Sport named Grant one of the top 100 most influential sports educators in America in 2007.

**Interview:** [Title IX](#) (3:56) **Transcript:** [Click here](#)



**Jim Livengood:** Director of Athletics at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, and from 1985 to 1987, Director of Athletics at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

**Interview:** [Title IX](#) (1:38)  
**Transcript:** [Click here](#)

**Gail Marquis:** Member of the 1976 U.S. Woman's Olympic Team.

**Interview:** [Title IX](#) (2:26)  
**Transcript:** [Click here](#)



**Arlene Mulder:** Former girl's basketball coach from Niles West High School in Skokie, Illinois.

**Interview:** [Title IX](#) (3:52)  
**Transcript:** [Click here](#)

**Carol Plodzien:** The first girls' head basketball coach at Fremd High School in Palatine, Illinois.

**Interview:** [Title IX](#) (1:12)  
**Transcript:** [Click here](#)



### Additional Resources:

- 40th anniversary report: <http://www.ncwge.org/TitleIX40/TitleIX-print.pdf>
- General Title IX information: <http://www.titleix.info/>
- Nine Ways Title IX Helps Women's Ed: <http://neatoday.org/2012/06/21/nine-ways-title-ix-has-helped-girls-and-women-in-education/>
- Title IX's Dark Legacy: <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2012/06/22/title-ixs-dark-legacy>
- Title IX's Impact on Men's Sports: <http://onlyagame.wbur.org/2012/06/23/title-ix-men>

## Title IX: A Change for Public Education

Paraphrase Title IX:

Who said it?

What did they say? Why is it important? What does it mean?

## Title IX: A Change for Public Education

Why was Title IX important for athletics and education in the United States? Use evidence from at least three interviews and one outside source to support your answer.

