

Biden Threatens to Deny Lunch Money to Needy Kids if Transgender Bathroom Mandates Aren't Met

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has now officially embraced President Joe Biden's transgender agenda and is taking steps to ensure schools comply. If schools don't adopt transgender bathroom policies, the Biden administration reportedly plans to withhold food funds intended for needy children.

Earlier this month, the department's Food and Nutrition Service announced it will interpret the prohibition on discrimination based on sex found in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and in the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The department said its action is in line with President Biden's Executive Order on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation and is consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, which prohibits discrimination along those lines.

The Federalist reports what all that legal jargon means is that K-12 schools will have to allow transgender boys into girls' bathrooms, showers and sleeping quarters in order to obtain federal funds for lunches, breakfasts and snacks.

A U.S. Department of Education spokesman told the news outlet there will be press releases from several agencies within the Biden administration announcing this policy, followed by formal rulemaking in June.

“It seems to be playing politics with feeding poor kids, which is really unfortunate,” John Elcesser, executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association, said in a phone interview with The Federalist. “Because if a school feels like they cannot participate because it’s in conflict with their mission or values, if a religious exemption is not granted, you’re taking away a program that’s feeding low-income kids.”

The National School Lunch Program on average provided low-cost or free lunches to 29.6 million children each school day in nearly 100,000 public and nonprofit private schools (grades pre-K-12) and residential child care institutions in 2019 at a total cost of \$14.2 billion, according to the USDA. The following year, 76.9% of all NSLP meals were served free or at a reduced price. {eo}

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