

The *Loudoun County Schools* Case

Case Name: *Cross v. Loudoun County School Board*

Case Action: Filed amended complaint in Loudoun County Circuit Court on August 16, 2021

Significance: Whether public schools can force teachers to violate their beliefs and communicate harmful ideas to their students



Background: Monica Gill, Kimberly Wright, and Tanner Cross are teachers at Loudoun County Public Schools, teaching subjects that range from history to physical education. The Loudoun County School Board recently passed a policy that forces all teachers to adopt ideologies in their classroom that have proven harmful to children. Teachers are being compelled to deny truths about what it means to be male and female by participating in students' social transitions. As teachers, Monica, Kim, and Tanner care for all their students and want to do what's best for them. But this new policy forces them to contradict that commitment by saying things that will harm them and that, based on science and their faith, they believe are untrue. While all three of these teachers have spoken out against the policy, Tanner was suspended for his public comments given in his personal capacity at a public school board meeting. Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys filed a lawsuit to restore Tanner to his role, which courts allowed. When the school passed the policy in early August 2021, ADF filed an amended complaint to challenge the policy itself and added Monica Gill and Kimberly Wright to the lawsuit as plaintiffs. The amended complaint and motion for preliminary injunction were filed on August 16, 2021.

Key Points

- Teachers care for the best interests of their students and cannot be forced to communicate ideas that are dangerous, divisive, and not based on scientific reality.
- This policy threatens the well-being of students, school officials, and teachers' ability to serve in accordance with their beliefs.

Key Facts

- Loudoun County Public Schools is requiring all teachers and students to deny truths about what it means to be male and female and is compelling them to violate their consciences and lie to students by calling them by their chosen pronouns or face punishment.
- When schools adopt policies based on unfounded science and political motives, it's kids who pay the price.

The Bottom Line: Teachers should not be forced to promote ideologies that are harmful to their students and they believe are false.