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Mr. Nason "Tony" Authement
Superintendent

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To Whom It May Concern:

Late last week, the Louisiana Attorney General issued an opinion to Louisiana School Systems regarding the recent federal mandate that requires schools to allow transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms that match student's chosen gender identity. That Federal Department of Education letter threatens school systems with federal civil rights litigation and the withholding of federal education funding if school systems do not comply with its directives.

The Louisiana Attorney General is of the opinion that the threatened action by the Federal Department of Education is based on an incorrect interpretation of the law and he has pledged to vigorously defend the state and Louisiana school systems from the threatened actions by the federal government in this case. The Attorney General's opinion states that the federal government does not have the legal authority to require that Louisiana children share locker rooms and bathrooms with children of the opposite sex and that the federal government's recent legal interpretation has been uniformly rejected in the past by federal court rulings.

It has been and remains the policy of the Rapides Parish School Board to provide equal educational opportunities for all children and the school system is committed to investigating and taking appropriate disciplinary action in cases where the applicable law prohibits or mandates certain actions. In this case, however, it is obvious that the legal principles governing bathroom and locker room use by students of the opposite sex are both unclear and hotly debated. Until this situation is resolved by final and binding laws or court rulings, Rapides Parish schools will maintain its policy of student use of separate bathroom and locker rooms based on a student's *biological sex*.

Sincerely,

Nason "Tony" Authement, Superintendent