



Legislative Efforts

2021 Summary Report

The purpose of the ATIXA policy platform is to identify the core issues and policies that ATIXA values as an organization.

The ATIXA policy platform centers on advancing the goal of gender equity in education and supports policies and actions in areas including:

- Title IX
- Civil rights for underserved communities in educational institutions
- Educational equity and school climate

2021 Highlights

ATIXA is a prominent leader within the Title IX space of the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and Office of Postsecondary Education.

- Submitted written testimony regarding new Title IX rulemaking and increasing student loan repayment protections
- Organized a listening session for ATIXA members with OCR leadership
- Orchestrated OCR's participation in the 2021 Annual Conference with OCR Acting Secretary Suzanne Goldberg presenting.
- Advanced and influenced legislation including:
 - ATIXA's own bill on loan deferment for victims of sexual violence
 - Amendments/changes to the Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA), ALERT Act, and Tyler Clementi Act

ATIXA as Thought Leaders

Relationships

ATIXA's Legislative efforts have resulted in **30 meetings** with Congressional and Administration offices and several organizations to raise awareness of ATIXA, encourage greater Title IX protections, advance legislation, and foster relationships.

Because of our proactive outreach, ATIXA this year was able to:

- Establish ATIXA's name and expertise with policymakers and work with Members of Congress who have supported legislation aligned with our interests
- Provide policy input on Title IX rules during and after the Biden Administration transition
- Build a coalition with other organizations in the Title IX space
- Secure Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA) as a sponsor for the loan deferment for ATIXA's victims of sexual violence initiative
- Endorse state and federal legislation that aligned with ATIXA's policy platform position statement



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Advancing Policy & Legislation

ATIXA has greatly accelerated its advocacy efforts over the last year and drafted a model bill, the Title IX Restoration Act (TIXRA) as an omnibus bill to achieve broad Title IX rule changes. TIXRA aimed to bring stability and balance to Title IX and help to insulate it from volatile changes that have created over a decade of instability for colleges and schools as the result of lawsuits and the political cycle.

To accomplish TIXRA's goal, we targeted specific legislation that we could amend or introduce in smaller pieces. In addition to amending legislation, we drafted our own bill that would allow victims of sexual violence to receive a loan deferment when taking a leave of absence from school.

Legislation Influenced

Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA):

- Sponsored by Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI), we were able to work with her office to expand the meaning of evidence-based practices. In addition, we expanded the bill's use of funding to include funding for institutions that hire both part-time and full-time Title IX Coordinators.

ALERT Act:

- Sponsored by Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) and Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), we met with both offices to share ATIXA's thoughts and concerns about the bill and its legislative intent. Both offices have reviewed our suggested amendments to the bill and are working together to see how they can best make the needed revisions.
- We worked to amend this legislation to ensure Title IX violation reporting and review is done in a comprehensive way and by the appropriate school officials.

Tyler Clementi Act:

- Sponsored by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), we met with the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee to discuss the legislation and offer suggested language changes.
- Specifically, we accomplished getting the term *employee* included in the notification of existing counseling, mental health, **employee**, and/or student services for victims or perpetrators of harassment, both on campus and in the community in regards to a statement of policy regarding harassment on the basis of a student's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy,



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childbirth, a medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth, and a sex stereotype), disability, or religion; schools are required to create.

- We helped to clarify that funds to eligible entities receiving grants under the legislation would go toward institutions that educate or train students, faculty, or staff of institutions of higher education about ways to **recognize** and prevent harassment or ways to address such harassment if it occurs.