

Hanover Township Public Schools

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The Attorney General's Press Release in which he states that *"We are gratified that the Superior Court has temporarily prohibited the Hanover Township Board of Education from implementing its policy requiring school staff to out LGBTQ+ youth to their parents"* is a complete fabrication of the Hanover Township Board of Education's Parental Notification Policy and mischaracterization of the Judge's Initial Order. First, the Board's Policy treats all of its kindergarten to eighth grade students – including its LGBTQ+ students – in the exact same non-discriminatory manner. The Board fully supports its LGBTQ+ students and endeavors to create a safe and welcoming learning environment for everyone. Contrary to the Attorney General's statement, the Board's Policy requires that parents be informed of **"any facts or circumstances** that may have a material impact on the student's physical and/or mental health, safety and/or social/emotional well-being and includes a non-exclusive, broad range of examples ranging from peer pressure, anxiety, intimidation and familial/cultural challenges to "sexual activity, sexuality, sexual orientation, transitioning, gender identity or expression...." The Board's Parental Notification Policy is in full accord with U.S. Supreme Court precedent, which has consistently recognized parents' fundamental Constitutional right to direct their children's upbringing -- *against* which state interference with family matters are not condoned.

Second, the Attorney General's "gratitude" with the Judge's Initial Order is wholly premature. The Judge has set the return date on the Attorney General's request for a preliminary injunction for May 30, 2023 at 9:00 am. Moreover, the Judge has directed the Hanover Township Board of Education to file its opposition on Tuesday, May 24, 2023. The Judge's temporary restraints issued prior to the May 30th hearing is not a ruling on the merits, but rather is merely an order to maintain the status quo until the Judge has the opportunity to consider both parties' legal briefs and oral arguments, after which the Judge will rule on the actual merits of the case. The Hanover Board of Education is very much looking for the Judge's ruling on the merits of the case as it seeks to protect the firmly entrenched Constitutional right of parents to be intimately involved in all aspects of raising their children.

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