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**Transforming Title IX:  
Student Activism for  
Safer Schools**

**Zoey Brewer (She/Her)  
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# **INTRODUCTIONS**

**Zoey Brewer (she/her), Know Your IX Policy Organizer**

**Tanaya Kollipara (she/her), Know Your IX Student Engagement  
Organizer**

# Overview

- Know Your IX's Work
- The Cost of Reporting
- Student Organizing
- Supporting Student Advocacy
- The Path Forward



# Know Your IX History



# Our History



- **Founded in 2013**
- **Survivor and youth-led project of Advocates for Youth**
- **Envisions a world where students can pursue an education free from violence and harassment**
- **We accomplish our mission by:**
  - **Educating K-12 and college students about their legal rights to a safe education**
  - **Training, organizing, and supporting student activists**
  - **Advocating for policy change at the campus, state, and federal levels**

# #EDACTNOW

- #EDACTNOW is one of Know Your IX's earliest campaigns
- Launched in 2013 to demand transparency in federal enforcement of Title IX
  - Gathered over 100,000 signatures
- Re-launched in 2022 following delays on a new rule from the Biden Administration



**In 2017, Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, began the process of rolling back years of civil rights protections for students across the country by rescinding guidance on Title IX.**





# DeVos' Proposed Rule and Student Advocacy

- **KYIX and student advocacy after DeVos' proposed rule led to significant victories for survivors**
  - **No more incentive to choose a heightened standard of evidence**
  - **High school disclosures**
  - **Rape shield protections**
  - **No safe harbor**
  - **Supportive measures**
  - **Additional definitions**

## **The Students' Access to Freedom and Educational Rights (SAFER) Act**

- **Requires schools to provide effective support measures and protections against retaliation to student survivors**
- **Investing in Title IX Coordinators, trainings, and more effective responses to sex-based harassment in schools**
- **Ensuring greater awareness by K-12 schools of students' experiences with sex-based harassment through climate surveys.**
- **Ensuring greater transparency of Title IX religious exemptions by requiring the Department of Education**

# The Cost of Reporting: Perpetrator Retaliation, Institutional Betrayal, and Student Survivor Pushout



## THE COST OF REPORTING:

Perpetrator Retaliation, Institutional Betrayal,  
and Student Survivor Pushout

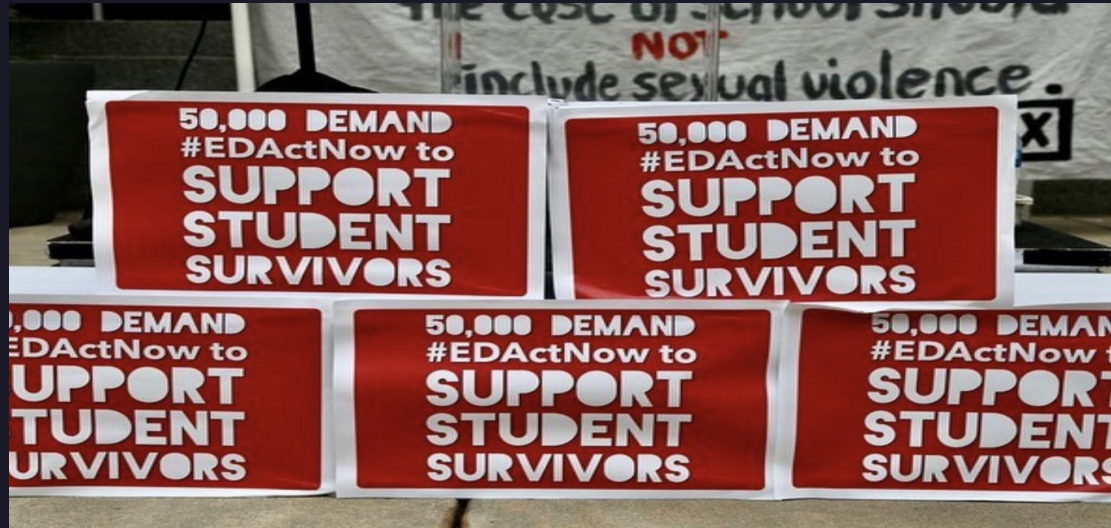


# The Cost of Reporting: Perpetrator Retaliation, Institutional Betrayal, and Student Survivor Pushout

- Found a massive failure on the part of schools to fulfill their obligations under Title IX.
- 39% of survivors who reported sexual violence to their schools were forced to take a leave of absence from school, transfer to a new school, or drop out of school entirely
- 35% of survivors reported that their schools explicitly told them to take time off
- 70% of survivors who reported to their schools stated they experienced adverse effects on their safety and privacy.



# Student Organizing



# The Power of Student Organizing

From the first #EDActNow Rally in 2013, student organizing, protests, rallies, and pressure has been the tipping point at which the Dept of ED and Administrations have taken action.

Ways we have taken action:

- Drafting petitions with demands and garnering signatures
- Submitting public comments on proposed Title IX rules
- Organizing rallies & protests with peers
- Much more!

Students' strategic actions translate to direct, tangible change.



OUR SAFETY > COLUMBIA'S REPUTATION

**Compliance → Caring**

# Student Demands: Transparency

- **Easily accessible and clear policy**
- **Yearly campus climate surveys with published results**
- **Aggregate data**
  - **How many cases are reported;**
  - **how many survivors were denied accommodations that they requested;**
  - **how long, on average, cases remained open;**
  - **how many students were found responsible; and**
  - **how students found responsible were sanctioned.**



# Student Demands: Prevention

- **Continuous, comprehensive, in-person prevention education for everyone on campus**
  - **First year students, transfers, graduate students, professors, and staff**
- **Effective consent education must be skills-based and interactive (rather than merely informational), inclusive, and community-based.**



# Student Demands: Confidential Support

- **Gender-based violence reponse office separate from the office that received student reports of gender-based violence**
- **An advocate should be promptly available 24 hours a day, seven days a week**
- **Peer advocate program**
- **Schools must make clear where survivors can access confidential support**
- **Schools should have an MOU with a local rape crisis center, but should strive to have a 24/7 crisis center on-campus.**

## **SURVIVORS:**

**Your experiences are valid, whether or not you choose to make them public.**



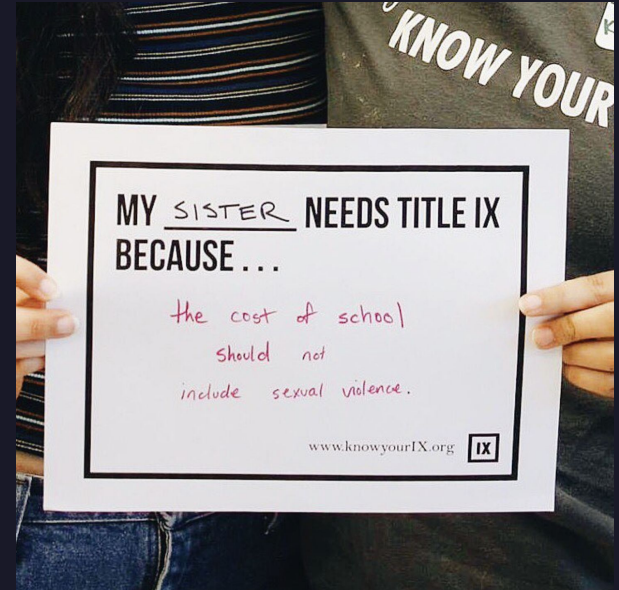
# Student Demands: Accommodations

- **Services:** Schools should minimize the burden on the complainant. Administrators should also discreetly help students receive academic accommodations
- **Accessibility:** Your policy should include examples of common accommodations and a detailed, explicit explanation of how to access them.
- **No Contact Orders:** No Contact Orders are a critical accommodation that schools should offer
- **Transportation:** If survivors can't afford transportation to vital services, the school should provide it free of charge.
- **Emergency Contraception and Prophylaxis**
- **Affordable and timely mental and physical healthcare**



# Student Demands: Response and Adjudication

- Amnesty Policies
- Trauma-informed hearing procedures
- Equal opportunity to present evidence and witnesses
- Equal access to evidence with sufficient time to review evidence
- Equal notice about hearing procedure
- Rape Shield Protections



# Supporting Student Advocacy



# Supporting Student Advocacy

- Meet with students in good faith
  - *They are not adversaries or a nuisance*
- Center survivor needs and demands
- Uplift student organizing efforts
- Students > Bottom Line
- Have students and survivors present and active while drafting new Title IX policies
- Avoid retaliatory responses to survivors reporting or speaking out



**The vision of Title IX has not yet been actualized. Student advocacy seeks to remedy that.**



# The Path Forward







**Thanks!**

**Any questions?**

**KNOW  
YOUR IX**

**CONTACT US**

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