

PRESS KIT

F.F. V. VALLEY VIEW CUSD 365U APPEAL

"GIRLS HAVE CIVIL RIGHTS - DEFEND THEM - PROTECT TITLE IX"



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESS RELEASE	3
BIOS AND KEY QUOTES	4
CASE FACT SHEET	5
TIMELINE OF EVENTS	6-7
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	8



For Immediate Release
August 5, 2026

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Families Appeal Federal Ruling That Denies Illinois Girls Civil Right to Privacy in School Bathrooms
“Girls Have Civil Rights – Defend Them”

Chicago, Illinois—Attorney Ajay Gupta, families of female students, and Awake Illinois today announced they are moving forward with an appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit after a federal district judge ruled that girls have no civil right to single-sex bathrooms under Title IX.

The case centers on a female student who encountered an obvious biological male while using the girls’ bathroom at Bolingbrook High School (Valley View CUSD 365U). The district court denied a preliminary injunction, dismissing the girl’s distress as “speculative” and stating that if a female can see another female in the bathroom, seeing a male is no different. The school district’s policy allowing biological males into female bathrooms remains in place heading into the 2026-2027 school year.

“Disappointingly, the School District’s policy treats a self-declared preference as conclusive and dismisses the privacy concerns of female students as ‘speculative,’” said Attorney Ajay Gupta. “This case was never about ideology. It was—and remains—about whether schools may force teenage girls to share intimate spaces with biological males based on nothing more than a self-declared preference. That is precisely what Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause are designed to prevent.”

Shannon Adcock, founder of Awake Illinois, said: “Girls have a right to privacy. That is not hate. That is not discrimination. That is basic human dignity.”

James Fisher, father of the initial plaintiff, added: “Fathers like me are standing up because we refuse to accept that our daughters should feel uncomfortable or unsafe in spaces that were set aside for them.”

A Valley View School District high school student who encountered a biological male in the girls’ bathroom last semester shared her experience: “I walked into the girls’ bathroom and saw a male student standing there. I was really confused, but I didn’t feel I could go to the school for help.”

The appeal argues that Valley View’s policy — and similar policies across Illinois — violates Title IX’s prohibition on sex-based discrimination and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Plaintiffs contend that allowing biological males into female-designated bathrooms and locker rooms creates a hostile environment for girls and undermines the original intent of Title IX.

Awake Illinois has filed federal Title IX complaints against multiple school districts, highlighting a statewide pattern that endangers female students’ privacy in bathrooms, locker rooms, and sports. Families across Illinois have joined the effort. “Parents are awake,” Adcock continued. “This appeal is just the beginning. We are prepared to take this case as far as necessary — including to the U.S. Supreme Court — to restore sanity, safety, and the original protections of Title IX for every student in Illinois. Girls have civil rights. Defend them.”

The appeal is now proceeding in the Seventh Circuit. Visit www.awakeIL.com/titleIX for updates.

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About Awake Illinois

Awake Illinois is a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to parental rights, educational integrity, and to the protection of all students. Founded in 2021, the organization has built a statewide network empowering thousands of citizens to advocate effectively for positive change.



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BIOS AND KEY QUOTES

1. **Attorney Ajay Gupta:** Mr. Gupta received a JD cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was a John M. Olin Fellow in Law and Economics; an LLM in Taxation from NYU, where he held a Dean's Scholarship; an MBA in Finance from Yale; and an AM in Economics from Stanford. Professor Gupta is a criminal defense and tax litigation attorney with extensive private practice, government, and adjunct teaching experience. He is working pro bono for the plaintiffs in this case.

QUOTE: *"This case was never about ideology. It was—and remains—about whether schools may force teenage girls to share intimate spaces with biological males based on nothing more than a self-declared preference for cross-sex access."*

2. **James Fisher:** Valley View School District 365 father. Initial representative of minor plaintiff in F.F. v. Valley View CUSD 365U.

QUOTE: *"Fathers like me are standing up because we refuse to accept that our daughters should feel uncomfortable or unsafe in spaces that were set aside for them."*

3. **Shannon Adcock:** Founder of Awake Illinois and Illinois mother of three. Mrs. Adcock has led multiple federal Title IX complaints against Illinois school districts and coordinates legal support for affected families. She is a nationally recognized advocate for parental rights, Title IX, and ethics in policy making.

QUOTE: *"Girls have a right to privacy. That is not hate. That is not discrimination. That is basic human dignity."*

4. **MINOR STUDENT:** High school student in Valley View School District 365. She encountered a male student last semester in her bathroom. She was afraid the school wouldn't help her.

QUOTE: *"I walked into the girls' bathroom and saw a male student standing there. I was really confused, but I didn't feel I could go to the school for help."*



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"GIRLS DESERVE PRIVACY - DEFEND THEM - PROTECT TITLE IX"

CASE FACT SHEET

Case Name: F.F. v. Valley View CUSD 365U - Appeal August 5, 2026

F.F., a minor, by and through her father James Fisher v. Valley View Community Unit School District 365U, et al.

Core Issue: Valley View School District policy allows biological males to access girls' bathrooms and locker rooms based on gender identity. A female student (F.F.) experienced a distressing incident in the girls' bathroom at Bolingbrook High School.

Court History:

- District Court (Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman) dismissed the case on July 13, 2026, ruling girls have no protected civil right to single-sex facilities.
- Appeal filed with U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit on August 5, 2026.

Legal Claims: Violations of Title IX (sex-based discrimination) and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Impact: Affects thousands of female students across Illinois; sets dangerous precedent for privacy and safety in schools nationwide.

Current Status: Appeal pending upon August 5, 2026 filing - Awake Illinois is mobilizing additional plaintiffs and covering court filing fees.



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GENERAL TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- **November 2024:** Female student encounters a biological male in the girls' bathroom at Bolingbrook High School.
- **February 2025:** Superintendent confirms via email that males are permitted in female bathrooms under district policy.
- **March 2025:** Formal grievance submitted by father James Fisher to Valley View School District 365U.
- **May 2025:** Awake Illinois files federal civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Education.
- **August 2025:** Plaintiffs file request for preliminary injunction in federal district court.
- **September 2025:** District court denies preliminary injunction. Notice of appeal filed with the Seventh Circuit.
- **January 2026:** Case argued before the Seventh Circuit.
- **May 2026:** Awake Illinois submits federal complaint to the U.S. Department of Justice regarding alleged Title IX violations by Valley View School District 365U.
- **July 13, 2026:** District Court Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman dismisses the case, ruling that girls have no protected civil right to single-sex facilities.
- **August 5, 2026:** Notice of Appeal filed with the Seventh Circuit. Press conference held in Chicago announcing the appeal and expanded family support.



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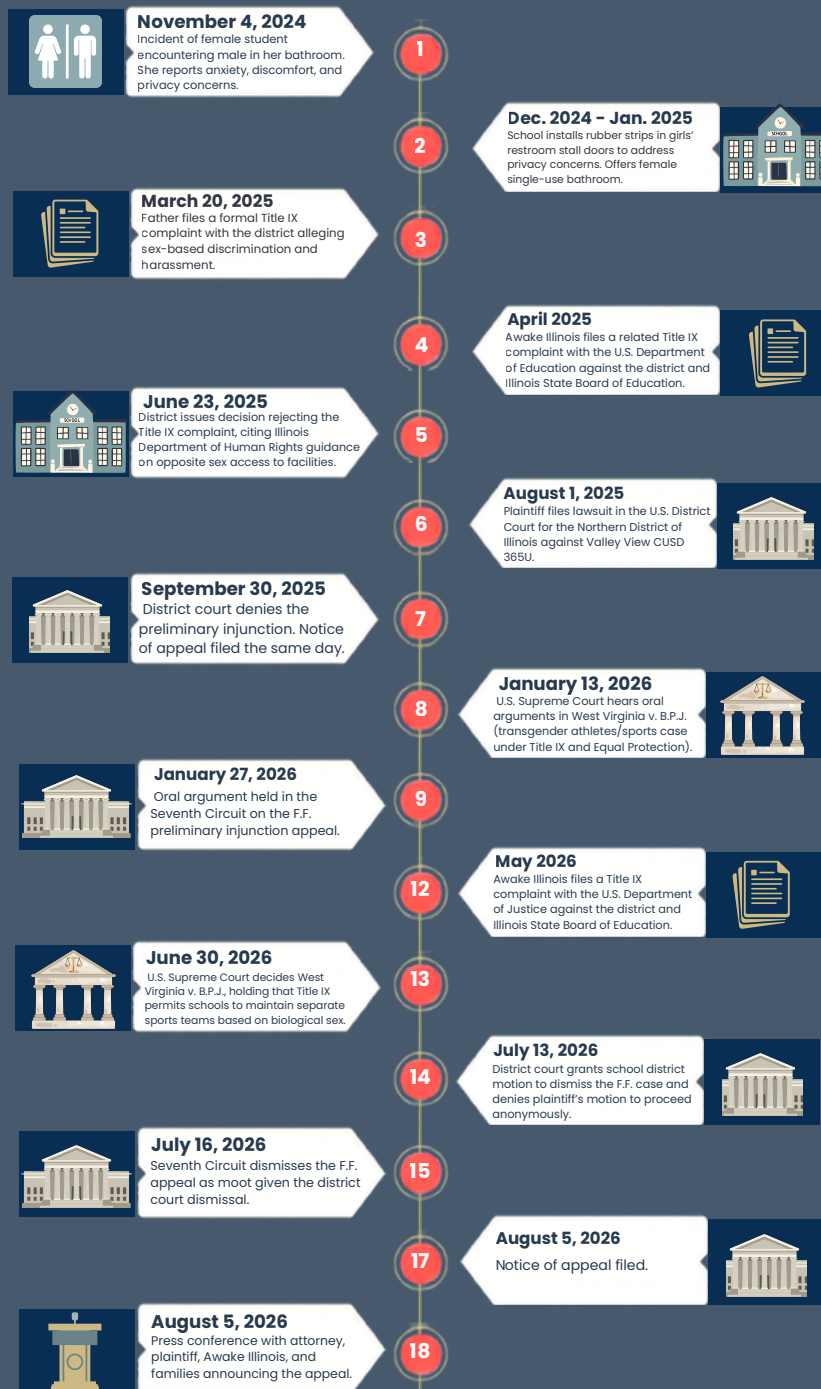
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Detailed Timeline of Key Events

F.F. v. Valley View Community Unit School District No. 365

1:25-cv-09112





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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AT WWW.AWAKEIL.COM/TITLEIX

- Full Complaint
- District Court Transcript
- Case Docket Sheets
- Notice of Appeal - posted after Wednesday August 5th filing
- Awake Illinois Title IX complaints against Valley View School District

Email info@awakeil.com for additional requests.