

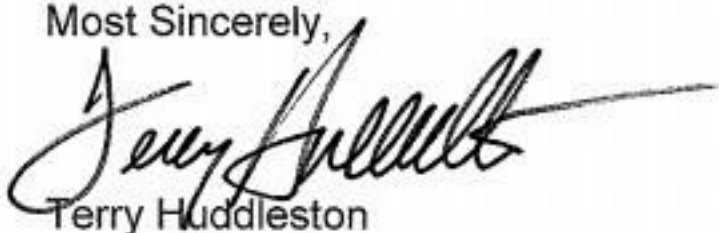
The Columbia County School District has a long-standing policy that prohibits discrimination and harassment. This policy has not changed. As Superintendent of Schools, I have always encouraged the administration, faculty, and staff to consistently apply this policy in order to maintain an academic and work environment in which all students are treated with respect and dignity, per policy. A vital component of this policy is our commitment to the prohibition of discriminatory practices.

Last week, the Departments of Justice and Education issued a letter regarding the Title IX obligations of public schools with transgender students. In this statement, the Obama Administration gave its interpretation which would allow a student to use a bathroom designated for the opposite sex based on how the student feels and threatened the loss of Federal funding for schools and school districts who fail to follow their directive. By issuing such a statement and threat, it is my belief that the Federal Government significantly overstepped its boundaries.

While I recognize and respect a student's individuality, I will continue to insist that our school district engages in practices that preserve an environment conducive to teaching, learning, and student safety. A person's issued birth certificate clearly establishes an individual's gender. Biologically male and female students shall use their respective facilities.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me through the District Office.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Huddleston", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Terry Huddleston

5/17/16