

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2026

Central High Athletes Launch Equal Means Equal Campaign Calling for Title IX Compliance:
Players & parents call on LRSD to provide equitable resources & treatment for girls' athletics

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Female student-athletes, parents, and community supporters gathered outside the Little Rock School District administration building Thursday to launch Equal Means Equal, a campaign calling on LRSD to address inequities affecting girls' athletics at Central High School and provide a transparent plan for full Title IX compliance.

The campaign began with concerns raised by Central High's softball team. "We're here because we have lived these problems – we've experienced them as athletes, teammates, and students," said Emmarie Blackwell, an LRCH softball player. "We're here today because we want something to change."

Players and parents have repeatedly raised their concerns with district leaders. During Thursday's press conference, they circulated a letter asking LRSD to conduct a comprehensive review of Central High's athletic programs and put its plan for correcting inequities in writing. The coalition is asking LRSD to:

- Conduct a full Title IX review of Central High athletics
- Publish the district's specific solutions, responsible parties, funding plan, and measurable deadlines
- Address disparities in resources, access, scheduling, and treatment across girls' sports
- Establish lasting safeguards so future athletes do not face the same inequities

Equal Means Equal supporters emphasized that equity for female athletes does not require taking opportunities or resources away from male athletes. It requires LRSD to ensure that students receive equitable treatment regardless of which team they play for.

The campaign is asking students, families, alumni, and community members to sign its petition calling for a full Title IX review and prompt corrective action by LRSD. Learn more about the petition here: actionnetwork.org/petitions/tell-lrdsd-full-title-ix-review

Scan for Petition:



Scan for Media Kit:

