

Good afternoon. This is Charlie Van Zant, your superintendent of schools. I would like to address the outpouring of concern I have received following the overreaching directive from the federal government last week on bathroom access for transgendered students.

In Clay County Schools, biologically male and female students will be required to use their respective bathrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities made available for personal matters.

This directive from the Obama administration does not carry the force of law, and you can be assured that we will not allow this intrusion by the federal government into your child's school life.

I am in communication with the Governor's office, as well as our representative in Congress, to determine how the state of Florida will respond to this overreach of power.

In the meantime, I will continue to honor my oath as superintendent to defend the Constitution and our state and federal laws as they are properly interpreted.

Our priority in every aspect of our district operations is to apply common sense solutions that meet local needs and protect the safety and privacy of **all** students.

Where an individual student requires special accommodation, discretion and the sound judgment of our school officials will guide our efforts to meet that student's need.

But make no mistake: we will not disregard the traditional family values shared by so many in our community in order to accommodate the demands of a very small minority.

Clay County students are familiar with our tradition of observing Founders Week each year, so I leave you with words from Thomas Jefferson: "The several states composing the United States of America are not united on the principle of unlimited submission to their general government ... and whensoever the general government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force." These are timely words for the timeless principles we must now uphold.

I hope this brings peace of mind to those who have contacted my office with their concerns over the past several days. As always, thank you for the trust you place in us with your children. May God bless each of you and your families.