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October 22, 2025

Superintendent Dr. Kamela Patton  
and School Board of Alachua County  
620 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Superintendent Patton and Alachua County School Board Members:

My office received a complaint reporting that a female teacher at Talbot Elementary School in Gainesville, Florida is forcing students and faculty to address her with the prefix “Mx.,” instead of “Ms.” or “Mrs.” Not only does this behavior violate Florida and federal law, the School District’s own policy unequivocally prohibits it.

Starting with the obvious, “Mx.” (apparently pronounced “mix”) is a made-up term describing an individual who does not wish to identify her gender. As this fake appellation necessarily subscribes to a system of thought that casts doubt on the binomial nature of the sexes, “Mx.” is an ideologically laden term that seeks to make educational professionals and—most damning—children mouth support for nonsense. Its usage is unfit for a Florida educational setting. Florida schools aren’t affirmation labs for confused adults. And public school teachers may not coopt students into their own sexual and biological confusions.

Usage of “Mx.” must stop immediately, for at least two reasons. First, it is apropos of biological nonsense. Florida schools should be teaching students facts—the truth. I can only imagine how Mx. Pythagoras would view this latest development in Alachua County .... Second, allowing this woman to force students (and even other adults) to use this fictitious appellation is intended to impart values that needlessly confuse innocent and impressionable children when they should be learning math, history, and science. Parents, not confused teachers, get to impart to their children core values regarding sexuality. In addition, the actions of this teacher’s nonsensical beliefs demonstrate “a very real threat of undermining’ the religious beliefs and practices that parents wish to instill in their children.”<sup>1</sup> The Supreme Court has long recognized the rights of parents include their ability to “direct the religious upbringing of their children” and the limits placed on the government’s ability to interfere with those

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<sup>1</sup> *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, 145 S. Ct. 2332, 2361 (2025) (quoting *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205, 218 (1972)).

rights in a public school setting.<sup>2</sup> Compelling the use of a made-up appellation from the LGBT movement’s ever-evolving lexicon interferes with parents’ religious upbringing of their children.<sup>3</sup> Thankfully, Florida law and Alachua County Public School District’s policy protect from such conduct.

In enacting section 1000.071(3), Florida Statutes, the legislature was clear: employees and contractors of every public K-12 education institution are prohibited from using “his or her preferred personal title or pronouns if such preferred personal title or pronouns do not correspond to his or her sex.”<sup>4</sup> The legislature so declared it the policy of Florida’s public school system that “sex is an immutable biological trait and that it is false to ascribe to a person a pronoun that does not correspond to such person’s sex.”<sup>5</sup> Further, your own policy mandates that this teacher’s behavior is unacceptable. Pursuant to Alachua County Public School District’s Policy Manual, in their obligations to students, district staff members cannot violate section 1000.071, Florida Statutes, in their “use of personal titles and pronouns in educational institutions.”<sup>6</sup> Yet a teacher in your district continues to force her ideological beliefs on young students in contravention of law and policy. Given your district’s history of troubling behavior—including allowing boys to sleep girls’ cabins at an Alachua County Public School-controlled camp—it must stop immediately.<sup>7</sup>

Allowing teachers to coopt students into the project of gratifying their personal fetishes and fantasies directly disregards parents’ fundamental rights in directing the upbringing of their children. Gender ideologues who refuse to follow Florida law, risking harm to our children, do not deserve the public trust. The “Mx.” appellation must be dropped in the school setting, immediately. And the district should consider whether this teacher’s (and her administration’s) disregard of state law and district policy merits discipline—potentially even removal. Failure to take these necessary steps immediately may require my office to undertake further legal enforcement measures and hold district officials liable as otherwise provided by law.<sup>8</sup>

Sincerely,



James Uthmeier  
Attorney General

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<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 2351. (internal quotations omitted).

<sup>3</sup> *See id.* at 2352-53.

<sup>4</sup> Section 1000.21(7), Florida Statutes, defines “sex” as “the classification of a person as either female or male based on the organization of the body of such person for a specific reproductive role, as indicated by the person’s sex chromosomes, naturally occurring sex hormones, and internal and external genitalia present at birth.”

<sup>5</sup> § 1000.071(1), Fla. Stat.

<sup>6</sup> *Policy Manual*, Alachua County Public Schools, Feb. 20, 2024, [go.boarddocs.com/fl/alaco/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=D3QLFJ557A13](https://go.boarddocs.com/fl/alaco/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=D3QLFJ557A13); *see also* Fla. Admin. Code R. 6A-10.081(2)(a)(14).

<sup>7</sup> Attorney General James Uthmeier (@AGJamesUthmeier), X (June 13, 2025, 2:21 PM), [x.com/AG-JamesUthmeier/status/1933590597421707531](https://x.com/AG-JamesUthmeier/status/1933590597421707531).

<sup>8</sup> § 112.51(1), Fla. Stat.