

To: Darren Bilberry
From: Gary W. Lawson
Re: Southwestern High School—Facilities Review Summary
Date: November 23, 2010

Background

Southwestern High School in Pulaski County requested a review of their locker rooms, practice, and competitive facilities in relation to Title IX compliance. Mr. Bilberry and Mr. Lawson visited the school on November 22, 2010. The following is a summary of findings and a listing of suggestions resulting from the on-site review.

Findings

- The competitive and practice facilities as well as the locker room were, in totality, rated very good to excellent. The most recent Title IX audit report (February 22, 2006) stated that the boys basketball dressing room was larger than the girls. The visit this week showed that the gymnasium locker rooms are in the final stages of renovation. The girls basketball dressing room is now approximately the same size as the boys basketball, and the two locker rooms offer identical amenities. The girls dressing area now contains a *media room* which may give them a slight advantage. An exclusive dressing room for the girls volleyball has also been added since the re-visit in 2006.
- The recent visit showed that, although the school has a very well appointed softball field, the baseball complex is definitely the most outstanding of the outdoor facilities.
- The dressing area assigned to baseball is superior to that provided for softball. The baseball coach has a well equipped office while the softball coach currently has no office space.
- All other dressing areas appear to show parity and be assigned equitably.
- All teams seem to be provided with adequate equipment storage space.
- While not an equity issue at this time, it appears that the turf on the soccer field may pose safety issues for student athletes.

Suggestions

- School officials should develop an equitable usage schedule for both the weight training room and the indoor hitting facility used by baseball and softball. This schedule should be posted at the facilities and be a part of the school's Title IX file.
- School officials should assign dressing room facilities for both the boys and girls tennis teams.
- The school's next facilities project should include the provision of office space for a girls team—preferably softball.
- School officials should evaluate the turf currently found on the soccer field in relation to provision of safety from injuries for student athletes.