**Script for School Board Meetings**

The American Association of University Women of **Pennsylvania** is taking action to ensure that all students have access to education. At the state level, AAUW-**PA** contacted the governor to discuss disturbing findings related to the under-reporting of harassment and bullying in schools. At the local level, the AAUW [branch name] Branch recently reached out to local schools to see how they are monitoring and enforcing Title IX, the law that prohibits sex discrimination in U.S. schools. We wanted to ensure that our local schools have designated Title IX coordinators who have the resources they need to enforce this critical civil rights law and combat bullying and harassment in schools.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Education issued new resources for Title IX coordinators to better understand and perform their important job of ensuring that learning environments are free from sex discrimination.  AAUW is working to make sure we put these materials into the hands of as many coordinators as possible.

The DOE resources include a [letter to schools](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201504-title-ix-coordinators.pdf) reiterating the importance of Title IX coordinators, a [thank-you letter directly to coordinators](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-title-ix-coordinators-letter-201504.pdf) reaffirming their roles, and a [free resource manual to guide their actions](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-title-ix-coordinators-guide-201504.pdf). The information is not a new requirement or regulation but rather a new resource to help Title IX coordinators better understand and perform their important job of ensuring that learning environments are free from sex discrimination.

We all know that Title IX is about more than sports for girls — it prohibits all sex discrimination in U.S. schools. The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights found that some of the most egregious and harmful Title IX violations occur when schools fail to designate a Title IX coordinator or when a Title IX coordinator does not have the training or authority to oversee compliance with Title IX.

The AAUW [branch name] Branch encourages parents, students, and community members – and this school board – to learn more about Title IX and to ensure that Title IX coordinators are identified and have the resources they need to address sex discrimination in our schools.