

## **MSHSAA strips Hazelwood schools of hosting home playoff games due to COVID-19 spectator policy**



There will be no postseason games of any kind at Hazelwood high schools this school year with one exception — when they can host each other.

In response to the Hazelwood School District’s requirement that visiting spectators show proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test within a week’s time, the Missouri State High School Activities Association will not allow postseason games of any kind to be hosted by Hazelwood Central, Hazelwood East or Hazelwood West in any sports.

In a letter addressed to Christopher Norman, the Hazelwood School District chief financial officer/assistant superintendent, MSHSAA executive director Kerwin Urhahn explained the decision:

“The Missouri State High School Activities Association appreciates your stance and we respect your ability to set local school policy regarding vaccination and testing in order to come onto any of your campuses. In alignment with your policy and not placing your school district in a position to have to turn away spectators at postseason events, since we will not be requiring our member schools that may have to play on your school teams to be fully vaccinated or show proof of negative test in the last week in accordance with your local school policy, Hazelwood East, Hazelwood Central and Hazelwood West high schools will not be allowed to serve as host sites for any MSHSAA postseason events.”

## Missouri Media football rankings

Statewide high school football rankings, as compiled by a 10-member panel of sportswriters and broadcasters. First-place votes in parenthesis. Panel is made up of Dion Clisso, PrepsKC; Cody Thorn, The Examiner; Dave Kvidahl, [STLHighschoolsports.com](http://STLHighschoolsports.com); Tom Rackers, Jefferson City News-Tribune; Chris Parker, Ozone Sports; Brandon Zenner, The St. Joseph News-Press; J.B. Connoley, KRES radio; Matt King, The Daily Journal; Jason Peake, [SOMOSports.com](http://SOMOSports.com); Brian Rosener, Poplar Bluff Daily American Republic.

First-place votes in parenthesis.

### CLASS 6

#### Rank, team, Rec., Pts., LW

1. CBC (6), 8-1, 96, T1
2. Liberty North (4), 7-1, 94, T1
3. Lee's Summit North, 8-1, 77, 3
4. DeSmet, 7-2, 70, 4
5. Joplin, 8-1, 60, 5
6. Park Hill South, 9-0, 43, 7
- T7. Francis Howell, 8-1, 33, 8
- T7. Nixa, 7-2, 33, 6
9. Raymore-Peculiar, 7-2, 20, 9
10. Marquette, 8-1, 19, NR

Dropped out: No. 10 Hazelwood Central

# Why the ACLU Is Right, and Glenn Greenwald Is Wrong, on Schools Addressing Transgender Students

Virginia mandates that public school teachers call students by their preferred pronouns. The civil liberties group defends the law, while the combative journalist says it violates their free speech.

Should transgender children have the right to go to school without suffering discrimination? Or should teachers have the right to discriminate against them? The most prominent organization advocating for civil liberties, the American Civil Liberties Union, has sided with transgender children. The most famous civil libertarian professional commentator, Glenn Greenwald, has sided with the teachers who are asking for the power to discriminate.

Following a new [statewide law](#) directing school boards to meet or exceed state education department [standards](#) regarding the treatment of transgender students, Virginia's Loudoun County school board enacted a policy requiring teachers to use students' preferred pronouns. One teacher [quit](#) in protest during an August school board meeting because the school "promotes political ideologies that do not square with who I am as a believer in Christ." Three other teachers have [filed](#) a lawsuit in state court demanding that the school policy be rescinded.

After the ACLU's Virginia chapter defended the school policy in a legal brief, Greenwald, who rose to fame as a strong critic of government surveillance and as a recipient of the Edward Snowden leaks, [wrote](#) on Twitter, "This is the first time, at least to my knowledge, that [the] ACLU is explicitly arguing in court that the First Amendment's free speech clause has been interpreted \*too broadly\* by courts, and are advocating \*a more restrictive view\* of what free speech means. The ACLU was a crucial influence on my political and legal outlook in childhood and early adulthood. There have been many valid criticisms of them as they changed—including from its former leaders—but to see them explicitly urging more free speech restrictions is shocking."

Greenwald's tolerance for shock is much higher whenever he appears with Tucker Carlson on Fox News. But what's shocking to me is his baseless maligning of the ACLU.

The ACLU of Virginia's brief does not argue that the courts have interpreted free speech too broadly, despite Greenwald's histrionic insinuation. What the brief argues is that when it comes to minors in school, the courts have long determined that free speech is not absolute.

The brief cites plenty of precedent for this view, such as a 2007 opinion by the federal Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Lee v. York County School Division*, a ruling that denied a teacher the right to post religious-themed materials on classroom bulletin boards, such as a National Day of Prayer poster. "Public schools possess the right to regulate speech that occurs within a compulsory classroom setting," ruled the appellate judges, and "a school board's ability in this regard exceeds the permissible regulation of speech in other governmental workplaces or forums."

The Fourth Circuit cited several other court cases to bolster that view, including the 1988 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, accepting the power of school officials to control the content of student newspapers when driven by "legitimate pedagogical concerns." That court concluded that "the determination of what manner of speech in the classroom is inappropriate properly rests with the school board rather than with the federal courts."

<https://washingtonmonthly.com/2021/10/26/why-the-aclu-is-right-and-glenn-greenwald-is-wrong-on-schools-addressing-transgender-students/>

October 26, 2021