

Equality NOW

Formed in 1966, the National Organization of Women (NOW) sought "to take the actions needed to bring women into the mainstream of American society now ... in fully equal partnership with men." Providing girls with the same educational opportunities as boys was one of the goals outlined in NOW's founding statement of purpose.

WE BELIEVE that it is as essential for every girl to be educated to her full potential of human ability as it is for every boy — with the knowledge that such education is the key to effective participation in today's economy and that, for a girl as for [a] boy, education can only be serious where there is expectation that it will be used in society.

We believe that American educators are capable of devising means of imparting such expectations to girl students. Moreover, we consider the decline in the proportion of women receiving higher and professional education to be evidence of discrimination.

This discrimination may take the form of quotas against the admission of women to colleges and professional schools; lack of encouragement by parents, counselors and educators; denial of loans or fellowships; or the traditional or arbitrary procedures in graduate and professional training geared in terms of men, which inadvertently discriminate against women.

We believe that the same serious attention must be given to high school dropouts who are girls as to boys.
