



# SPEECH FIRST

## Speech First Files Lawsuit Against Texas State University for Discriminatory-Harassment and Computer Policies

[Washington, D.C. \(April 13, 2023\)](#) – [Speech First](#) has filed a [lawsuit](#) against Texas State University (TXST) in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas for violating students' First and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

Texas State University and its officials have policies that deter, suppress, and punish constitutionally protected speech about political and social issues of the day.

Speech First is challenging two specific policies that have been designed to – and have the effect of – silencing student speech:

- The Discriminatory-Harassment Policy – is overbroad and can easily be applied to a wide swath of protected speech, and
- The Computer Policy – forbids students from using their student email accounts for protected political speech.

Both policies are overbroad restrictions on constitutionally protected speech. Under these policies, students can be disciplined for broadly defined “harassment”, discussing politics in emails, engaging their fellow classmates, and commenting in class. Furthermore, Texas State policies pose a grave risk of chilling the open and unfettered discourse that should be central to higher education.

[Cherise Trump](#), Executive Director of Speech First, issued the following statement:

“Texas State’s policies are clearly designed to deter and restrict student speech all together, with both policies working in tandem to limit free expression and the exchange of viewpoints on campus. Instead of promoting an environment of learning, intellectual exploration, and open discourse, Texas State has chosen the inverse. By implementing policies that restrict how students can discuss politics or any of the societal issues of the day, the university has forced students to opt-out of classroom discussions. Instead, they choose not to speak up, concerned they may be accused of harassment for “offending” someone. Texas State administrators have created a campus controlled by fear where students are afraid to share their opinions, engage their classmates, or even posit new ideas. By violating their students’ First and Fourteenth Amendment rights, Texas State claims they’re protecting students. How can Texas State claim to protect students while violating their rights?”

To schedule an engagement with Speech First, please contact Michael Hensley at [Michael@athospr.com](mailto:Michael@athospr.com) and [info@athospr.com](mailto:info@athospr.com).

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