



G.S. v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education Case

Case Name: *G.S. v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*

Case Action: Case filed on December 8, 2025, in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, Charlotte Division

Significance: Whether students have the right to share their sincerely held beliefs without fear of wrongful censorship, retaliation, and punishment from schools.

Background: G.S. is a junior at Ardrey Kell High School in North Carolina. Following the assassination of Charlie Kirk, G.S. painted her school's spirit rock with a heart, an American flag, the message "Freedom 1776," and "Live Like Kirk—John 11:25," as a tribute to Charlie Kirk. Yet, despite giving her permission to paint these messages on the rock, school officials painted over them within hours. Then, school officials publicly accused her of vandalism via a school-wide electronic message and announced that they had contacted law enforcement and were cooperating with the criminal investigation. They forced G.S. to write a statement and to reveal data from her phone without consent from G.S.'s parents and without advising G.S. of her constitutional rights. Then, school officials unveiled their *Revised Spirit Rock Speech Code*, restricting religious student expression on the spirit rock. School officials have unconstitutionally censored G.S.'s speech, retaliated against her, and adopted new policies that violate her First Amendment rights. Alliance Defending Freedom, which represents G.S. in *G.S. v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, defends the rights of students to share their beliefs without fear of punishment.

Key Points:

- School officials should never threaten or shame any student for exercising her constitutionally protected First Amendment rights of free speech.
- High school should be a place where students learn to think, debate, and grow, not a place where their voices are censored, silenced, and policed.
- Students shouldn't fear suspension or expulsion for what they believe. Free speech means everyone gets to speak without fear.

Key Facts:

- G.S. complied with the school policies perfectly, yet the school launched a criminal investigation and painted over the rock simply because they didn't like her message.
- G.S. and her friends experienced abuse from other students and the public due to school officials' public accusations of wrongdoing.
- School officials can't favor non-religious expressions over religious expressions. The school had no problem allowing BLM and other highly charged messages on the rock. Only when a Christian message appeared did the *Revised Spirit Rock Speech Code* suddenly emerge. This isn't about the rock; it's about shutting down a viewpoint that school officials don't like.

The Bottom Line: This is an attack on free speech. Students have the right to share their sincerely held beliefs without fear of wrongful retaliation and punishment from schools.