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| **Vorchheimer v. School District of Philadelphia (1977)** |
| Details:A teenage girl sought admission to the high quality Central High School in Philadelphia, an all-male magnet program, rather than the equally high quality Girls High magnet program or one of the coeducational schools in the city. Both schools offered very similar academic programs. As [single-sex schools](http://academic.evergreen.edu/curricular/mit2008/Win08handouts/edLaw/index/definitions.htm#singlesexschooling) were a respected educational method at the time, and there existed academic alternatives of equal quality, the school district's policy was upheld. |

Vorchheimer was unable to show that the [single-sex schools](http://academic.evergreen.edu/curricular/mit2008/Win08handouts/edLaw/index/definitions.htm#singlesexschooling) constituted gender discrimination, and so the [middle-level test](http://academic.evergreen.edu/curricular/mit2008/Win08handouts/edLaw/index/definitions.htm#middleleveltest) was not applicable and the school district did not have to show legitimate and important purpose.

Majority Opinion:

The object of the (14th) Amendment was undoubtedly to enforce the . . . equality of the two (sexes) before the law, but in the nature of things it could not have been intended to abolish distinctions based upon (sex), or to enforce social, as distinguished from political equality, or a commingling of the two (sexes) upon terms unsatisfactory to either. Laws permitting, and even requiring, their separation in places where they are liable to be brought into contact with each other do not necessarily imply the inferiority of either (sex) to the other, and have been generally, if not universally, recognized as within the competency of the state legislatures in the exercise of their police power. The most common instance of this is connected with the establishment of separate schools for (male) and (female) children, which has been held to be a valid exercise of the legislative power even by courts of States where the political rights of (women) have been longest and most earnestly enforced.