

RHF 8
Iowa Student Refuses to be Weighed in Front of Class

CBS News

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DES MOINES, Iowa (CBS St. Louis) – An Iowa middle-school student was willing to put her foot down – just not on a scale in front of the class.

Ireland Hobert Hoch, 13, refused a request by her physical education teacher to be weighed publicly and was given a prompt trip to the principal's office, reports USA Today.

"I really wasn't comfortable with anybody but my mom and doctor knowing my weight," Ireland explained. "For another person to know, that's not important to them."

The weighing in was part of the school's efforts to fight childhood obesity by telling each student their body mass index (BMI).

While not all doctors agree whether BMI is the best way to judge a person's health, many schools use it as a guideline.

Ireland, who is tall and lean, surprised her mother, but still earned her support.

"If it's so important, why are parents not told? So what is the purpose?" Heather Hobert-Hoch asked.

Ireland's mother called to complain about her daughter's treatment.

"When I voiced my concerns they said, 'We've done this for years, and you are the only one complaining,' " she added.

Southeast Polk Junior High Principal Mike Dailey said he has received no other complaints about the BMI test.

QUESTIONS: Answer all of the following in your notebook.

1. Define: body mass index
2. Why do you think most students allowed the school to weigh them without objecting?
3. Does this indicate that nobody else disliked being weighed publicly? Why or why not?
4. If Ireland Hobert Hoch's mother was the first to complain about the BMI test, does that mean the school was right to punish Ireland for refusing to be weighed? Why or why not?
5. How would you feel about a teacher measuring your BMI and telling you whether they thought it was good?
6. Why do people trust doctors to examine and gather information on them in situations where they would not trust others?
7. Are schools responsible for keeping childhood obesity low? What all does responsibility for another person's health involve?
8. Besides teaching them subjects like math and history, what, if any, other aspects of students' lives are schools responsible for?