



Illegal immigrant student accused of groping girls in N. Virginia High School

by [Nick Minock](#)

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Israel Flores Ortiz, 18, is accused of groping several girls in Fairfax County High School (Fairfax County Sheriff's Office)



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FAIRFAX COUNTY, Va. (7News) — An adult [Fairfax High School](#) student has been charged with nine counts of assault and battery amid accusations that he was groping girls in the halls during school.

7News Reporter [Nick Minock](#) was the first to break this story and spoke exclusively with the victims' parents.

"There's a group of about 12 individuals that have reported this assault," one mother told 7News. "It was all perpetrated by a single individual who is a stranger to the girls. He just sneakily walked up behind them and put his hand in between their legs. It was not just a butt smack or a butt grab. It was a groping of a private area. It had been occurring for several months."

Israel Flores Ortiz is almost 19 years old, and he's in the 11th grade at Fairfax High School.

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On Friday, Judge Dipti Pidikiti-Smith denied Ortiz's request to be released from jail, even after [Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano's office](#) agreed to Ortiz's bail request. The judge said the proposed bail request didn't properly protect the public.

About a dozen girls have come forward to report that Ortiz put his hands in between their legs, grabbed their private parts in the front, and moved his hands to their butts while in the school's hallways.

"What do you think about your experience so far with the school system handling this situation?" Minock asked two of the mothers, who agreed to speak on camera.

"Abysmal, abysmal," one mother told 7News. "I think from the very beginning, Fairfax County has attempted to diminish what happened to these girls."

Parents of several of the girls tell 7News they are furious with [Fairfax County Public Schools](#).

"They have attempted to sweep it under the rug," one mother said, "They sent out a letter last night."

"After we demanded it, multiple parents demanded that there be a letter before we got it," one of the mothers exclaimed.

"But it was a completely sanitized letter," the first mother continued.

In court records, the offense dates are listed as Feb. 25, 2026, and Ortiz's arrest date is listed as March 7, 2026.

More than two weeks after the incidents were reported, Fairfax High School Principal Georgina Aye sent an email to parents on March 12, 2026, that reads in part, "We are writing to share the news of the recent arrest of a student who was charged with inappropriately touching other students at school. These incidents involved the student touching students' buttocks while they were transitioning in the hallways."

"Yeah, no, I would not be here for butt slapping," one of the mothers told Minock. "I would, I mean, I would be upset about that, but this wouldn't be

my second day this week here at the courthouse for that. It was a clear violation. He put his hand in between my daughter's legs, and the butt was actually the last thing that he touched."

The parents told 7News FCPS' description of what happened has caused bullying.

"The girls have experienced harassment and bullying from peers at school, including people that they once thought were their friends, and the letter that they sent out, referencing it only as buttocks touching, just adds fuel to rumors that they were just attention seeking," one mother told 7News.

The parents also told 7News that FCPS told them the school system would allow Ortiz to come back to school when he is released, which the parents said would make their daughters feel very uncomfortable and unsafe.

Also in court on Friday, prosecutor Jenna Sands said Ortiz groped girls at school throughout the school year. Why FCPS didn't stop Ortiz's alleged behavior months ago remains a mystery.

7News asked FCPS if they will allow Ortiz to come back to school, and why FCPS didn't address his alleged behavior sooner if it was happening all school year?

FCPS replied to 7News in a written statement.

"While Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is unable to comment on specifics due to federal and state privacy laws, we prioritize student and staff safety and we fully investigate any time someone shares that an incident has occurred at school, or that they do not feel safe at school. We are grateful to our law enforcement partners who continue to work swiftly and thoroughly when there are safety concerns in our schools. The safety of all FCPS students and staff remains a top priority."

7News has also now learned Ortiz is an illegal immigrant from El Salvador who crossed the southern border in 2024 and was released under federal government policy at that time.

Immediately after his arrest last week, ICE issued a detainer for Ortiz in order to deport him, but ICE told Nick that the Fairfax County Sheriff is not honoring that detainer.

"Unfortunately, sanctuary politicians like Gov. (Abigail) Spanberger are outlawing cooperation with ICE and choosing to RELEASE criminal illegal aliens from their jails back onto their communities to create more American victims," an ICE spokesperson told 7News. "We are calling on Fairfax County to honor our detainer to ensure this violent criminal is removed from our country so he can never claim another victim again."

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Even if Ortiz is convicted, he likely wouldn't spend much time behind bars.

"What do you think about this being charged as an assault, not sexual assault?" Minock asked the parents of two of the girls who have come forward.

"That's very frustrating, very frustrating, because I feel like this seems like a crime of someone that will escalate if they are not, if it's not handled properly, and that's been my concern," one mother told 7News. "What's done was done to her, unfortunately, can't come back and change that, but changing it in the future, making sure that further actions don't happen, or that this doesn't happen to other girls is, I think, what's most important."

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"I agree," another mother said. "We were all very frustrated to hear that it was just simple assault and level one misdemeanor, basically a fine."

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