

From: OCR
Sent: Tue, 3 Oct 2023 11:49:14 +0000
To: OCR Kansas City
Cc: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: [DOJ CRT Referral] 297763-LBC - (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

October 3, 2023

Dear OCR Kansas City Office,

The email below is being forwarded to your office for review and appropriate handling.

Thank you,

OPEN Center Customer Service Team
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education

From: DOJ Civil Rights - Do Not Reply <civilrightsdonotreply@mail.civilrights.usdoj.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 6:52 AM
To: OCR <OCR@ed.gov>
Subject: [DOJ CRT Referral] 297763-LBC (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-1100

Attn: U.S. Department of Education - Office for Civil Rights (EOS)

The Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division has received a complaint we feel is more appropriate for your agency. Please review the following details below:

Complainant Information

The following complainant information was collected through the civilrights.justice.gov reporting portal. Information not provided by the complainant will be indicated by a "—".

Reporting Portal Record Locator

297763-LBC

Name

First name: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A);

Last name: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A);

Email

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

Phone

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

Complainant Contact Address

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

What is your primary reason for contacting the Civil Rights Division?

Discrimination at a school, educational program or service, or related to receiving education

Does your situation involve physical harm or threats of violence?

None

Relevant details

Did this happen at a public or a private school, educational program or activity? Public

Organization name

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

Where did this happen?

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

Do you believe any of these personal characteristics influenced why you were treated this way?

Other: Antisemitism

Are you now or have ever been an active duty service member?

No

When did this happen?

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A);
(b)(7)(C)

CRT receipt date

—/—/—

In your own words, describe what happened

This incident happened at [REDACTED] on public school grounds. A student walked [REDACTED] and chanting can be heard "do it! Do it!" Then the student in front of 100's of students parents and administrators; the student did [REDACTED] You heard huge roar of applause. No one addressed the issue. Later that night on a school bus going to [REDACTED] several students are pictured [REDACTED] [REDACTED] It was stated through hearsay students were allowed to walk the hallways [REDACTED] during the school year. My daughter is an [REDACTED] there and she is [REDACTED] Several students are of different ethnic origin that go there. The whole town has hate and if the students are doing this and not being corrected then this becomes everyone's issue and ppl become scared.

Report language

This report submitted in: English

Complainant Letter

The following is a copy of the letter sent to the complainant:

Subject: Response: Your Civil Rights Division Report - 297763-LBC from the Educational Opportunities Section

Content:

Re: Your Civil Rights Division Complaint – 297763-LBC from the Educational Opportunities Section

Thank you for contacting the Department of Justice on May 24, 2023. We have reviewed the information you provided and have determined that the complaint raises issues that are more appropriately addressed by another federal agency. We are, therefore, referring this complaint to the following agency for further action:

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
(800) 421-3481; (202) 453-6012 (fax); (800) 877-8339 (TDD)
OCR@ed.gov
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>

What you can do:

The above agency will review your complaint. While we will take no further action on this matter, you can contact the agency above to check the status of your complaint.

You also may contact your state bar association or local legal aid office to assist you with any potential state and local legal issues.

To find a local office:

American Bar Association

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_services/flh-home
(800) 285-2221

Legal Services Corporation (or Legal Aid Offices)

<https://www.lsc.gov/find-legal-aid>

How you have helped:

Although we will not be acting on your complaint, your report can help us find issues affecting multiple people or communities. It also helps us understand emerging trends and topics.

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Department of Justice about your concerns.

Sincerely,

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

ONE PETTICOAT LANE
1010 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 320
KANSAS CITY, MO 64106

REGION VII
ARKANSAS
KANSAS
MISSOURI
NEBRASKA
OKLAHOMA
SOUTH DAKOTA

January 2, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dr. Brandon Eggleston, Superintendent
914 Frisco Street
Seneca, Missouri 64865
beggleston@senecar7.com

Re: Seneca R-VII School District
OCR Complaint No. 07241005

Dear Dr. Eggleston:

On October 3, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received a complaint against the Seneca R-VII School District (the District) located in Seneca, Missouri, alleging discrimination based on national origin, including (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and shared (b)(6); (b)(7)(A) ancestry. Specifically, the complainant alleged that the District failed to respond to multiple instances of harassment of students by students at (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) School who engaged in (b)(6); (b)(7)(A) during the (b)(6); (b)(7)(A) school year, including at (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) activities.

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination based on national origin, including indigenous and shared Jewish ancestry, by recipients of federal financial assistance. Because the District receives federal financial assistance from the Department of Education and is a public entity, the District is subject to Title VI and OCR's jurisdiction. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on [OCR's website](#).

OCR will investigate the following legal issue:

- Whether the District failed to respond to alleged harassment of students based on national origin, including (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and shared (b)(6); (b)(7)(A) ancestry, in a manner consistent with the requirements of Title VI.

Opening the complaint for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination on the merits of the complaint. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral factfinder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the Complainant, the District, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and fully responds to the allegation in accordance with the provisions of [OCR's Case Processing Manual](#). A complainant may have the right to file a private suit in federal court regardless of whether OCR finds a violation.

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Our goal is the prompt resolution of the complaint. Information on OCR’s complaint processing procedures is available at [OCR’s How the Office for Civil Rights Handles Complaints webpage](#). Please note the section on resolution of a complaint prior to the conclusion of an investigation. If the recipient expresses an interest in resolving the complaint and OCR determines that resolution of the complaint prior to the completion of the investigation is appropriate, OCR may attempt to negotiate an agreement with the recipient pursuant to Section 302 of the Case Processing Manual. Additionally, OCR offers, when appropriate, a mediation process to facilitate the voluntary resolution of complaints by the parties.

Attached is a request for data necessary to investigate this complaint. OCR requests that the District submit this information within 15 calendar days of the date of this letter (by January 17, 2024). If any item in our request is unclear, or if you experience any difficulty complying with this request, please contact us as provided below prior to the expiration of the 15-day period. Please note that, due to delays being experienced with delivery of the mail, OCR prefers you submit documents electronically via email to christopher.wynn@ed.gov or via facsimile to (816) 268-0599. Because email is not reliably secure, however, please password protect any email documentation that includes personally identifiable information protected by law. The password should be sent in a separate message or communicated by telephone. Please be aware that OCR may need to make additional requests for information in the future. If OCR needs to conduct an on-site investigation, we will notify you in advance. OCR’s primary communication with the District will be via email.

The District may not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against an individual because that individual asserts a right or privilege under a law enforced by OCR or files a complaint, testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding under a law enforced by OCR. Complaints alleging such retaliation may be filed with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

If you have any questions, please contact Christopher Wynn, Attorney, at (816) 268-0415 (voice), (877) 521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or by email at Christopher.Wynn@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

MEGAN
DITTMANN-RYAN

Digitally signed by MEGAN
DITTMANN-RYAN
Date: 2024.01.02 11:13:00
-06'00'

Megan L. Dittmann-Ryan
Supervisory Attorney, Region VII