



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

June 13, 2018

Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

Thank you for your September 8, 2017, letter regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX). I share your commitment to ensuring that all students have a safe learning environment free from discrimination based on sex.

The Department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is responsible for enforcing Title IX, and the Department remains committed to the full, fair and effective enforcement of that statute. Please be assured that OCR will continue to fulfill its mission to vigorously protect civil rights and to investigate all complaints under Title IX impartially and thoroughly, including those related to sexual misconduct.

Your letter references the Department's April 4, 2011, Dear Colleague Letter on Title IX and Sexual Violence as well as the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act). I, as well as other Department leaders, have had numerous conversations with a wide spectrum of groups and individuals to learn more about the issues facing our nation's schools and students. For example, on July 13, 2017, the Department convened listening sessions with a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss the issue of sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools. These listening sessions were part of ongoing discussions with students, parents, survivors, accused students, school administrators, advocacy groups, attorneys and policy experts to learn about their experiences and to hear their views on how the Department can best assist schools in fulfilling their obligations to protect students under Title IX.

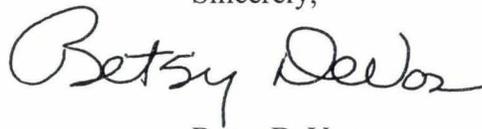
After considering the views of many interested parties, the Department determined that it was appropriate to withdraw the statements of policy and guidance contained in the 2011 DCL and April 2014 Questions and Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence, which were issued without affording notice and an opportunity for public comment, and to engage in rulemaking under Title IX. As the Department has made clear, hearing from a variety of interested parties will be vital as we work to develop regulations that set forth a fair process, which will benefit all students for years to come.

To assist schools in meeting their Title IX obligations, on September 22, 2017, the Department clarified how OCR continues to assess a school's compliance with Title IX by issuing Questions

and Answers on Campus Sexual Misconduct (2017 Q&A), available at www.ed.gov/ocr/docs/qa-title-ix-201709.pdf, and by explaining that OCR will also rely on the Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance issued in 2001. The Department continues to (1) protect the right of every student to access his or her educational opportunities free from sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, and (2) expect every school to apply processes that are fair and equitable for all students. The 2017 Q&A also addresses the Clery Act, which requires institutions of higher education that participate in the federal student aid programs to disclose campus crime statistics and campus security policies. These institutions are subject to requirements of the Clery Act as well as Title IX.

Thank you for your interest in ensuring a safe learning environment for students that is free from discrimination based on sex.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy DeVos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" and "D".

Betsy DeVos