

Dean Marc Mihaly
Vermont Law School
164 Chelsea Street
P.O. Box 96
South Royalston, VT 05068

Re: Complaint No. 01-15-2026
Vermont Law School

Dear Dean Mihaly:

This letter serves to inform you that the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is closing the investigative phase of the above-referenced complaint that the Complainant filed against the Vermont Law School (School) alleging discrimination based on disability. Specifically, the Complainant alleged that the School has certain buildings that are not physically accessible. The Complainant alleged, in particular, that doors for bathrooms designated as accessible in Yates, Oakes and the library are too heavy; there is no signage identifying the accessible bathroom in the bookstore; the library doors are too heavy to open; the tutoring building does not have an accessible entrance; and exterior accessible route signage is too low and can be obscured by snow in the winter months.

OCR opened the complaint for investigation pursuant to our jurisdiction under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulation found at 34 C.F.R. Part 104 (Section 504), which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. The School is subject to Section 504 because it receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.

Prior to the conclusion of OCR's investigation and pursuant to Section 302 of OCR's Case Processing Manual, the School expressed an interest in resolving the complaint. Subsequent discussions between OCR and the School resulted in the School signing the enclosed resolution agreement (Agreement), which, when fully implemented, will resolve the issue raised in the complaint. The terms of the Agreement are aligned with the complaint allegation and are consistent with Section 504.

As memorialized in the Agreement, OCR will monitor the School's compliance with the agreed upon terms. OCR will close the monitoring of this matter and will notify the parties in writing, once it determines that the School has satisfied the terms of the Agreement. Consistent with OCR's monitoring requirements and the Agreement provisions, the School had initially agreed to provide OCR the first monitoring report on September 1, 2015. We have since agreed to extend that deadline to October 1, 2015 and look forward to receiving the School's report by that date.

This letter is not intended nor should it be construed to cover any other matters that may exist regarding compliance with Section 504 that are not specifically discussed in this letter.

Please be advised that the School may not harass, coerce, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual because he or she has filed a complaint or participated in the complaint resolution process. If this happens, the Complainant may file another complaint alleging such treatment.

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

We would like to thank you, and especially Vice President of Finance Lorraine Atwood, for your cooperation. If you have any questions about this letter, you may contact Civil Rights Investigator Patricia Cox at (617) 289-0042 or Patricia.Cox@ed.gov. You may also contact Acting Team Leader/Attorney Ryan Milligan at (617) 289-0189, or me at (617) 289-0111.

Sincerely,

Allen L. Kropp
Acting Regional Director

Enclosure