RESOLUTION AGREEMENT
CHRISTINA SCHOOL DISTRICT
OCR CASE NO. 03-10-5001

The Board of Education of the Christina School District (District) enters into the following Agreement to resolve Office for Civil Rights (OCR) Case No. 03-10-5001 to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 100. Title VI and its implementing regulation prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin by recipients of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education (the Department). The District agrees to take corrective action to resolve the Title VI violations established by this compliance review; such corrective action will include all necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that the District’s disciplinary policies, practices and procedures (hereinafter referred to collectively as “policies”) are administered in a non-discriminatory manner. The District enters into this agreement for purposes of resolving a disputed claim that they violated Federal Law. By entering into this agreement, the District does not admit liability and this agreement is not to be construed as an admission of liability.

OCR agrees to assist the District by providing technical assistance upon request and, as part of the Agreement, the District intends to work with an educational consultant, such as the Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC), or another similar agency in compliance with Delaware’s procurement act.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The goal of the District is to ensure that all District students are provided schools that are safe and that create an environment that is conducive to learning. The fair and appropriate implementation of student discipline policies grounded in research-based evidence is one means of attaining this objective. In addition, it is critical that students learn and are reinforced in appropriate behavior so that they are engaged in the District’s education program, rather than its disciplinary system. The District is committed to ensuring to the maximum extent possible that misbehavior is addressed in a manner that does not require removal from the educational program in all cases except those where it can be documented that the safety of students and/or staff is threatened and the behavior in question is such that the disruption to the educational environment can only be remedied by such a referral, or as required by law.
SUBSTANTIVE PROVISIONS

A. Collaboration with Consultant

The District will enter into an agreement with MAEC, or another similar agency in compliance with Delaware’s procurement act. The provisions of this Agreement call for the District to work with a consultant to, among other things: review District policies; conduct a longitudinal study of discipline data collaboratively with the District; disaggregate data in focus areas selected in collaboration with the District; and provide technical assistance to the District on making effective use of annual climate surveys. With input from the consultant, the District will review and modify - within the legal constraints put forth by the federal government and the state of Delaware - its discipline policies currently in effect to reform those that result in discriminatory referrals, suspensions, expulsions and arrests of students, and/or are discriminatory in application or in effect.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

• By January 31, 2013, the District will provide OCR with a copy of the agreement with the consultant pursuant to Section A.

B. Strategies for Student Development Outside of the Disciplinary System

In collaboration with the consultant, the District will develop and implement strategies for teaching, encouraging and reinforcing positive student behavior that do not require engagement with the discipline system. Such strategies will include, without limitation, the following:

1. Classroom Management and Behavior Support for Staff

   The District will implement a requirement that school staff attempt a range of corrective measures before referring a student to disciplinary authorities and/or law enforcement unless it can be documented that the safety of students and/or staff is threatened, the behavior in question is such that the disruption to the educational environment can only be remedied by such a referral, or the referral is required by law. The District will offer annual training to all staff within the District on classroom management techniques. (See Section F.1.) In addition, the District will ensure that school staff continue to have available to them appropriate resources and support in order to provide effective classroom management.

2. Rewarding Positive Behavior
The District will have in place at every school a system for positively and appropriately encouraging and reinforcing appropriate student behavior. The District will offer annual training to all staff within the District on rewarding positive behavior. (See Section F.1.)

3. Supports for Struggling Students

If, after the corrective measures required by Section B.1 above have been fully implemented, a student is referred for discipline more than once in a school year for behavior that disrupts their education and/or the education of other students, the District will provide one or more of the following school-based supports to assist the student. These supports may include, but need not be limited to, the following:

   a. Adult in-school mentoring;
   b. Peer in-school mentoring;
   c. Access to guidance counselors, student support staff, social workers or student advocates as appropriate;
   d. Involvement of parents in the discipline process;
   e. The development and implementation of a behavior support plan;
   f. Assistance with learning appropriate behavior and developing self-management skills;
   g. Referral for educational services, where indicated and appropriate.

The District will offer annual training to all staff within the District on providing supports for struggling students. (See Section F.1.)

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

- By August 30, 2013, and annually thereafter until OCR closes the monitoring of this Agreement, the District will submit a report with supporting documentation demonstrating its full implementation of Section B.

C. Revision of Disciplinary Policies

1. In collaboration with the consultant, the District will analyze its 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 discipline data. Based on this analysis, the District will work in collaboration with the consultant to identify any possible improvements or revisions in the following non-exhaustive list of subject areas:

   a. Referrals for discipline;
   b. In-school suspension
   c. Out-of-school suspension;
d. Expulsion; and
e. Referrals to law enforcement.

2. The District will revise and submit to OCR for review and comment its student discipline policies as necessary to fulfill the purposes of this Agreement. In doing so, the District will take into account those proposed revisions developed with the assistance of the consultant, as well as any recommendations or suggestions made by students (including through school climate surveys or student forums referenced herein), faculty/staff, and parents. The District will ensure that its student discipline policies are written and organized in such a way that they are easily understood by students, faculty/staff, and parents.

3. The revised student discipline policies will require that disciplinary authorities consider alternatives to expulsion, suspension or other sanctions that require removal from the education setting.

4. OCR will notify the District when it has completed its review of the revised student discipline policies. Within 30 days of OCR’s review, the Christina Board of Education will publish the student discipline policies in the form of a revised Code of Conduct. The District will take steps to ensure that the revised student discipline policies are disseminated in a timely manner to all District students, parents and staff, and are posted in a prominent location on the District’s website and in each District school. In addition, within 45 days of OCR’s review, the District will ensure that the revised student discipline policies are translated into any high-incidence languages within the District.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

• By April 30, 2013, the District will forward the results of its 2011-12 school year data review and the proposed revisions to discipline policies (including recommendations received from students, faculty/staff and parents) developed pursuant to Section C.1 to OCR for review.

• By August 30, 2013, the District will forward a copy of its publication of the revised discipline policies, including any translation(s) thereof, to OCR.

• By October 31, 2013, the District will forward the results of its 2012-13 school year data review and the proposed revisions to discipline policies (including recommendations received from students, faculty/staff and parents) developed pursuant to Section C.1 to OCR for review.

D. **Discipline Supervisor**

1. By January 31, 2013, the District will designate an employee to serve as the District’s Discipline Supervisor, and will publish this individual’s name and/or title, office address,
The Discipline Supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring that the implementation of the District’s policies concerning discipline is fair and equitable. In addition, the District will identify a District office administrator who will address complaints from parents, guardians, students, and others regarding the implementation of the District’s disciplinary policies, and will publish this individual’s name and/or title, office address, e-mail address, and telephone number on its website, in all school publications regarding discipline, and in the notice that the District sends to parents annually.

3. In collaboration with the consultant, the District will develop a training program for the District office and administrator and for the Discipline Supervisor, including the responsibility of the Discipline Supervisor to regularly develop and participate in activities designed to raise awareness within the District about the implementation of the District’s disciplinary policies, as set forth in Sections E, F, G, and H below.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- By January 31, 2013, the District will notify OCR of the names of the individuals who have been designated as Discipline Supervisor and District office administrator.
- By April 30, 2013, the District will submit the training program for the Discipline Supervisor and the District office administrator to OCR for review.
- By August 30, 2013, and annually thereafter until OCR closes the monitoring of this Agreement, the District will provide to OCR a summary of the District Supervisor’s activities as set forth in this section.

E. Outreach to and Input from Students, District Staff and Community Members

1. School Climate Surveys
   a. The District currently administers annually a Climate Survey to students (grades 3-12), teachers/staff, and parents. The survey is administered separately to students, parents, and teachers/staff; it measures perceptions of relationships among the school community members (teacher-student, teacher-parent, and student relationships), school safety and fairness and clarity of rules and behavioral expectations. The survey includes a supplemental scale to measure positive and punitive disciplinary techniques.
   b. In collaboration with the consultant, the District will review the Climate Surveys for students, parents, and teachers/staff to assess whether it is comprehensive and effective in measuring the perceptions of students and other members of
the District community in connection with the administration of school discipline. If the District and the consultant determine that the Climate Survey adequately assesses student, parents, and teacher/staff perceptions concerning the administration of school discipline, the District will provide annually to OCR a summary report of the substance of the responses, as well as the response rate by students, parents and teachers/staff for each annual administration of the surveys. For the purposes of this Agreement, all schools shall participate in the Climate Survey.

c. If the District and the consultant determine that the Climate Surveys currently administered by the District do not adequately assess student, parent and teacher/staff perceptions concerning the administration of school discipline, the District, in collaboration with the consultant, will develop school climate surveys designed to assess those perceptions for review by OCR. Upon OCR’s review, the District will administer annually the school Climate Surveys developed with collaboration by the consultant and the District to all students, parents, and teachers/staff and will encourage participation. The District will provide to OCR a summary report of the substance of the responses, as well as the response rate by students, parents and teachers/staff for each annual administration of the surveys.

2. Student Forums

In order to raise awareness of discipline issues, each school in the District will conduct an annual forum during regular school hours which specifically provides the opportunity for students to discuss with faculty and administrators any matters relating to discipline, including non-discrimination, and provide their input for any improvements in the District’s discipline policies. At least one individual with school-wide responsibility for discipline will attend each forum session. The District will select an appropriate format for each session based on the age/grade levels of students and the particular needs of each school, e.g. classroom discussion, student focus groups, as long as each student is given the opportunity to participate in such a session at least annually (e.g., if a student body assembly format is used, it shall include time for small group breakout discussions that allow individual students a realistic opportunity to participate)

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

• By August 30, 2013, the District will submit to OCR for review the District/consultant’s assessment of the Climate Survey and any proposed new Climate Survey pursuant to Section E.1.a.
By August 30, 2013, and until the monitoring of this Agreement is closed, the District will submit to OCR documentation showing that its Climate Surveys have been administered, and a summary report of the substance of the responses as well as the response rate, pursuant to Section E.1.b or E.1.c.

Within 30 days of the end of the semester in which the forum is conducted, and annually thereafter until the monitoring of this Agreement is closed, the District will submit to OCR a report of each student forum session conducted pursuant to Section E.2, including the date/time/length and location of each session, a list of students attending by race/sex/age/grade level, a list of the faculty and staff attending, a summary of the concerns and suggestions expressed by students at each such session, and the District’s responses to the same.

F. Training

1. Staff Training

The District will develop training programs to be delivered annually to staff within the District. The format and delivery method of the training programs may vary depending on the nature and degree of the recipients’ interaction with students and with the recipients’ role in the disciplinary process. The training will take place prior to the beginning of each school year. The District agrees to provide the same training to any employee hired mid-year within 15 days of employment by the District as practicable. For staff directly involved in student discipline (e.g., teachers and school-level administrators), the training must include the components listed below.

   a. The training will emphasize the District’s commitment to using the policies referenced in this Agreement to ensure a safe and orderly educational environment and to ensure the fair treatment of all students when making disciplinary referrals and imposing disciplinary sanctions.

   b. The training will emphasize the other approaches and strategies for student development outside the disciplinary system referenced in Section B of this Agreement.

   c. The training will include but not be limited to detailed explanations of the discipline code, the definitions of offense categories, the specific manner in which progressive disciplinary consequences will be employed, if applicable, the circumstances under which deviations from established policies may be justified, the documentation that must be used by all staff within the District who make disciplinary referrals or impose disciplinary sanctions, evidence-based techniques on classroom management and de-escalation approaches, information on how to administer discipline fairly and equitably, resources that
are available to staff who are having difficulty with classroom management, resources that are available to students to assist them in developing self-management skills, the value of recognizing and reinforcing positive student behavior, and the importance of ensuring to the maximum extent possible that misbehavior is addressed in a manner that does not require removal from the educational program.

d. The training will provide District employees with information concerning the role that School Resource Officers (SROs) are expected to play in the discipline process, focusing in particular on guidelines for when it is appropriate and when it is not appropriate to refer a student to an SRO.

e. The training will provide employees the opportunity to raise concerns or suggestions regarding the improvement of the District’s disciplinary policies, including any issues in connection with fairness and non-discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity.

2. Student Training

The District will develop a training program to be delivered annually to all District students that will explain the policies referenced in this Agreement and what is expected of the students under those policies in an age-appropriate, easily understood manner.

   a. The training will emphasize the District’s commitment to using the policies referenced in this Agreement to ensure a safe and orderly educational environment and to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all students when making disciplinary referrals and imposing disciplinary sanctions. The training will advise students of their right to appropriate due process protections in connection with any disciplinary action taken or proposed by the District, including the names and contact information for the Discipline Supervisor and the District office administrator.

   b. The training will include but not be limited to detailed explanations of the discipline code, the definitions of offense categories, the specific manner in which progressive disciplinary consequences will be employed, if applicable, the circumstances under which deviations from established policies may be justified, and the District’s commitment to ensuring to the maximum extent possible that misbehavior is addressed in a manner that does not require removal from the educational program.

   c. The training will emphasize not only the consequences and procedures associated with non-compliance with the disciplinary code, but also provide guidance and information regarding appropriate behavioral standards, including
resources to assist in developing self-management skills.

d. The training will be distinct from, and not offered simultaneously with, the student forums described in Section E.2 of this Agreement.

3. Informational Programs for Parents, Including Outreach and Distribution of Policies

The District will develop an informational program to be offered to the parents or guardians of all District students that will explain the policies referenced in this Agreement in an easily understood manner and what is expected of students under those policies and the District’s efforts in achieving fair discipline of all students. The program will provide parents the opportunity to raise concerns or suggestions regarding the improvement of the District’s disciplinary policies, including any issues in connection with fairness and non-discrimination. The District will ensure that the informational program is offered in such a manner as to ensure the maximum possible participation by parents or guardians. This may include offering the program at multiple times in various locations and will include providing access to parents or guardians who are unable to attend the program to the materials developed by the District in association with the program. This will also include offering the program and the program materials in high-incidence languages within the District.

a. The program will include District officials involved in the administration of discipline (e.g., administrators, teachers, guidance counselors); information about the District’s recent actions under this Agreement; and a record of the meeting in order that the information collected can be considered by the District when assessing and modifying its policies and under this Agreement.

b. The program will emphasize the District’s commitment to using the policies referenced in this Agreement to ensure a safe and orderly educational environment and to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all students when making disciplinary referrals and imposing disciplinary sanctions.

c. The program will advise the parents or guardians of the right of students to appropriate due process in connection with any disciplinary action taken or proposed by the District.

d. The program will include but not be limited to detailed explanations of the discipline code, the definitions of offense categories, the specific manner in which progressive disciplinary consequences will be employed, if applicable, the circumstances under which deviations from established policies may be justified, resources that are available to students to assist them in developing self-management skills and the District’s commitment to recognizing and reinforcing positive student behavior and to ensuring to the maximum extent possible that misbehavior is addressed in a manner that does not require
removal from the educational program.
e. The program will advise the parents or guardians of the availability of the District Discipline Supervisor and the District office administrator, whom they may contact if they have any concerns about the manner in which the District’s discipline policies are being implemented or if they need assistance in addressing student behavioral problems.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- By June 30, 2013, the District will submit to OCR for review a description with supporting documentation of the training programs developed by the District in accordance with Section F.1 and F.2 and the informational programs developed by the District in accordance with Section F.3, including any translated materials.
- By October 31, 2013, and until the monitoring of this Agreement is closed, the District will provide OCR with the dates that training sessions were offered along with other outreach activities and a list of the participants in all trainings and informational programs pursuant to Section F.

G. Notice to Parents

1. The District currently publishes its Student Code of Conduct (Code) and distributes the current version in hard copy to every student at the beginning of the school year. The Code is also published on the District’s website. At the beginning of each school year, students are asked to discuss the Code with their parents, and students and parents are expected to provide a written acknowledgment that they have received a copy of the Code and will abide by it. The District will continue this practice of notification to students and parents.

2. The District currently publishes a “dashboard” on its website that displays the most frequent reasons for referrals for discipline. The current dashboard runs on a platform that all schools use to store student records, including all instances of discipline. The District will modify the dashboard to provide discipline data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, disability, English Language Learner (ELL) status, and by school. Said data shall include:
   a. Referrals for discipline;
   b. Suspensions;
   c. Expulsions;
   d. Referrals to law enforcement.

3. The District will provide notice to parents and guardians about the availability of all
sources of information regarding discipline, including the District dashboard, contact information for the District’s Discipline Supervisor and the District office administrator, and the right to file complaints regarding the implementation of discipline policies. This notice will be posted on the District’s website and will be mailed annually to all parents and guardians.

4. The District will publish annually on its website yearly data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, disability, ELL status, school and violation as set forth in Section G.2 above.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

• By October 31, 2013, and until the monitoring of this Agreement is closed, the District will provide a copy of the written notices pursuant to Sections G.1 and G.3, and documentation confirming the modification of the District’s dashboard pursuant to Sections G.2 and G.3.

H. School Resource Officers (SRO)

1. Reporting

The District will ensure that all actions taken by SROs are reported to the District.

2. Review of SRO Interventions and Practices

The District will conduct a comprehensive review of SRO interventions and practices annually to assess their effectiveness and identify any changes that should be made to ensure that they align with the goals and objectives set forth in this Agreement. The review will include, but not be limited to, the following:

A review of every instance during the school year in which an SRO became involved in a student discipline matter to determine whether it was appropriate for the SRO to become involved in the matter and whether, once involved, the SRO acted in a manner that was consistent with state law and the District’s expectations and its discipline policies. This review will also examine every instance where a District student was referred to law enforcement and carefully consider whether the referral to law enforcement was appropriate under state law and the circumstances present at the time and consistent with the treatment of other similarly situated students. If the District determines that the referral was inappropriate, it will promptly take steps to remedy any adverse effects, which may include efforts to correct District records and, where warranted, to discontinue law enforcement involvement in the incident.
3. SRO Training

The District will make good faith efforts to collaborate with local and state police departments with which it contracts for SROs to develop a training program to be delivered to all District SROs that will explain the revisions being made to SRO interventions and practices and what is expected of the SROs under the revised SRO interventions and practices and the District’s revised student discipline policies, as well as to develop an orientation program to be delivered to all SROs newly assigned to the District that explains SRO intervention, what is expected of SROs, and the District’s student discipline policies.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- By June 30, 2013, the District will submit to OCR for review a description with supporting documentation of any revisions the District plans to make to SRO interventions and practices based on the review completed by the District pursuant to Sections H.1 and H.2.
- By October 31, 2013, the District will provide documentation to OCR confirming its good faith efforts to collaborate with local and state police departments with which it contracts for SROs to develop a training program to be delivered to all District SROs pursuant to Section H.3. If the District’s efforts are successful, the District will submit to OCR for review the proposed training program for SROs that it developed in collaboration with the police departments. The District shall submit documentation confirming implementation of the SRO training program.

I. Data Collection and Self-Monitoring

1. The District will establish uniform standards for the content of student discipline files at all District schools. The standards will be designed to ensure that the District keeps accurate and complete records of all discipline incidents, including those that do not result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions. To this end, the District will develop and submit to OCR for review and comment a uniform District referral form and a uniform District disciplinary sanctions form to be used by all staff within the District when imposing disciplinary sanctions. At a minimum, the forms will require the person using them to provide the following information:
   a. the name or staff identification/employee number of the person making the referral;
   b. the name or staff identification/employee number of the person determining the sanction;
   c. detailed information to explain the circumstances that led to the disciplinary referral, including the conduct and the setting (e.g., classroom, bus, cafeteria, hallway);
d. any student and/or adult witness(es) to the incident;
e. any other students involved in the incident;
f. a description of all approaches that were attempted in order to address the behavior at issue prior to referral for discipline;
g. instructions to the referring staff member to describe the incident in terms of conduct and not in terms of the Code violation;
h. the disciplinary sanction imposed or, if no sanction was imposed, the reason for that decision;
i. the Code violation(s) for which the sanction was imposed;
j. the e-School violation(s) for which the sanction was imposed;
k. the factual basis for the sanction imposed and the justification for the selection of the particular penalty imposed from within the range of possible penalties that could have been imposed, including the student’s prior disciplinary history; or, if no sanction was imposed, the reason for that decision;
l. the date the referral was made or the sanction was imposed; and
m. the name/identification number, race, ethnicity, sex, age, disability, ELL status, and grade level of the student(s) being referred and all other students involved in the incident.

Individual schools may elect to collect information in addition to the information required in subsections a-m above.

The District will continue to contact the State Department of Education to obtain further enhancements or updates to the computer system as needed in order to collect and accurately record all such information electronically such that each unique violation under the District’s disciplinary code has a corresponding unique match in the computer system. However, unless and until paper forms are no longer in use, the District will retain and store paper referral forms as well as all other documents used in the discipline of students throughout the monitoring of this Agreement.

2. The District will collect and evaluate data regarding all referrals for student discipline, including those that did not result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions, the imposition of disciplinary sanctions, referrals to law enforcement, and suspension and expulsion at all District schools. The data collected will include, but not be limited to, the following:

a. The name/identification number, race, ethnicity, sex, age, disability and/or English Language Learner (ELL) status, and grade level of each student referred for discipline;
b. For each referral, the name/identification number, race, ethnicity, sex, age, grade
level, disability and/or ELL status, as applicable, and grade level of all other students involved in the incident, whether or not they were referred for discipline themselves;

c. A detailed description of the misconduct;

d. A description of all approaches that were attempted in order to address the behavior at issue prior to referral for discipline;

e. The date of the referral;

f. The specific Code violation for which the referral was made;

g. The referring staff member (by staff identification/employee number);

h. The school and type of class from which the referral was made or other specific settings (e.g. bus referral, hallway referral);

i. Whether there were any student and/or adult witness(es) of the incident; names of witness(es); number of witnesses;

j. The prior disciplinary history of the student;

k. The specific Code violation for which the student was punished and the penalty/sanction imposed or, if no violation was charged or penalty/sanction imposed, the reason why;

l. The outcome of the manifestation hearing determination, if applicable;

m. The date the penalty/sanction was imposed;

n. The length of the penalty/sanction (in number of days);

o. The staff member who assigned the penalty/sanction (by staff identification/employee number);

p. Whether the student was transferred to the alternative school or to a different school site;

q. Whether school-based or local law enforcement were involved (e.g. law enforcement was notified of the offense);

r. Whether the referral to law enforcement was mandatory and, if so, the statute or ordinance governing the referral;

s. Whether the student was arrested as a result of school-based or law enforcement involvement;

t. Any other non-punitive outcomes arising out of each referral incident, including, but not limited to, referral for homebound services, disability evaluation; and,

u. Whether the student was given access to appropriate due process procedures in connection with the penalty/sanction, including but not limited to being given the opportunity to present his or her version of events and/or an explanation for their conduct prior to the imposition of sanctions, and whether, when, and how their parents were contacted in connection with each referral incident.

3. Based on the data collected under Section I. 2 above, the District will implement an educational dashboard portal that provides non-personally identifiable discipline data
disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, disability, ELL status to building administrators and parents (in accordance with Section G.2 above), including but not limited to:

a. Referrals for discipline;
b. Sanctions imposed, by category;
c. Out-of-school suspensions;
d. Expulsions; and
e. Referrals to law enforcement.

4. Each school principal will meet at the conclusion of each semester with the teachers at his/her school to discuss strategies for teaching, encouraging and reinforcing positive student behavior that do not require engagement with the discipline system and to discuss the discipline of students for that semester. The discussion will specifically review the data gathered by the District under Section I.2 of this Agreement and the results of the review conducted by the discipline review team under Section 6 of this Agreement. The meetings will examine how discipline referrals and disciplinary sanctions imposed at the school compare to those at other schools and consider any data or other information suggesting that members of any group for whom data are collected pursuant to Section I.2 above are disproportionately referred for discipline or sanctioned more harshly than similarly-situated students of other groups. If the data suggest such disproportion, the teachers will be reminded of District resources that are available to assist them in managing their classrooms and reinforcing positive student behavior. Where the data or other information show that a particular teacher is responsible for a disproportionate number of referrals or disproportionately refers members of any such group, the principal will meet privately with that teacher to explore the reasons for the disproportion, and examine potential solutions. If the data or information suggests that the teacher is failing to adhere to the District’s student discipline policies or practices or is engaging in discrimination, the principal will take appropriate corrective action, including but not limited to, additional training or disciplinary action. Where the data show no disproportion at the school and/or in particular classrooms or suggest that a teacher has been particularly successful in managing student discipline at the classroom level, the meetings will examine steps that are being taken at the school or by the individual teacher to ensure the fair and equitable enforcement of the District’s student discipline policies that might be shared as “best practices” with other teachers at the school and with other schools where disproportion exists.

5. The Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee(s) will meet at the conclusion of each school year with the principal of each school to discuss the data gathered by the District under Section I.2, as well as with the Discipline Supervisor, to examine the
issues raised pursuant to Section D and the report of the discipline review team pursuant to Section I.5. The meetings will examine how discipline referrals and disciplinary sanctions imposed at each school compare to those at other schools and, if applicable, to schools outside the District, and consider any data suggesting that members of any group for whom data are collected pursuant to Section I.2 are disproportionately referred for discipline or sanctioned more harshly than similarly-situated students of other groups. If the data suggest such disproportion, the meetings will explore possible causes for the disproportion. The meeting will also review the District’s resources that are available to teachers to assist them in managing their classrooms and reinforcing positive student behavior. If the data or other information suggests that the principal or other school staff are failing to adhere to the District’s student discipline policies and practices or are engaging in discrimination, the Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee(s) will take appropriate corrective action, including but not limited to, additional training or disciplinary action. Where the data show no disproportion, the meetings will examine steps that are being taken at the school to ensure the fair and equitable enforcement of the District’s student discipline policies that might be adopted as “best practices” at those schools where disproportion exists.

In addition, if the data or other information show that a particular school is referring disproportionately high numbers of students of a particular group to law enforcement or that the SRO is involved in disproportionately high numbers of disciplinary referrals of students of a particular group, the appropriate District administrator will meet with the SRO and all administrators involved in disciplinary decisions to discuss the data and obtain an explanation for the disproportionality. The principal will then submit a written report to the Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee(s) explaining the principal’s findings and recommendations for further action. Based on the principal’s report and recommendations, the Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee(s) will take whatever corrective action he or she deems necessary to address the disproportionality, up to and including, if appropriate, a request that the SRO be replaced and modification of student discipline files.

6. The District will establish a discipline review team for the purpose of randomly reviewing a percentage of the disciplinary actions taken at each District school on an ongoing basis to ensure that the actions taken were non-discriminatory and consistent with the District’s student discipline policies and practices.

Beginning with June 30, 2013, and at the conclusion of each subsequent school year, the discipline review team will prepare a report that summarizes the results of its
review at each school and includes recommendations on any changes to the District’s student discipline policies and practices that should be made in light of the team’s findings. The discipline review team will, in consultation with the consultant, develop goals and benchmarks for measuring the District’s efforts at implementing its student discipline policies and practices in a non-discriminatory manner. If at any point during this process the discipline review team identifies any disciplinary action that was discriminatory or inconsistent with the District’s student discipline policies, it will immediately report its finding to the Superintendent, who will take immediate corrective action. Under such a circumstance, the discipline review team will also expand its review at the school in question to include every disciplinary action taken at the school during the school year.

7. At the conclusion of the 2012-13 school year and each school year thereafter, the District will consider whether additional changes to its student discipline policies are warranted based on its evaluation of the District-wide student discipline data gathered under Section I.2 of this Agreement, the meetings conducted by the District under Sections I.4 and I.5 of this Agreement, the input and recommendations made by the Discipline Coordinator under Section D of this Agreement, and the findings made by the discipline review team established under Section I.6 of this Agreement.

8. The District will ensure that its employees enter accurate discipline data in the Department’s Civil Rights Data Collection.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

• By June 30, 2013, the District will submit to OCR documentation of its implementation of Section I.1 and 2, including a sample of its newly-designed referral form, any enhancements to the computer data tool, and any other recordkeeping systems.

• By October 31, 2013, and annually thereafter until the monitoring of this Agreement is closed, the District will create an annual report for submission to OCR for the duration of the monitoring of this Agreement that summarizes the information collected under Section I.2 of this Agreement and assesses whether the District is implementing its student discipline policies in a non-discriminatory manner. The evaluation of the data will include, but not be limited to, the following:

  a. Periodic review of discipline referrals and penalties imposed to examine whether any group of students for whom data are collected pursuant to Section I.2 above is receiving more referrals or discipline than other groups in comparison to their respective enrollments;

  b. Periodic review of referrals to law enforcement to examine whether any group of
students for whom data are collected pursuant to Section I.2 above is receiving more referrals than students of other groups;

c. Periodic review of student expulsions to examine whether any group of students for whom data are collected pursuant to Section I.2 above is receiving more expulsions than students of other groups;

d. Examination of whether certain teachers and administrators refer disproportionately high numbers of any group of students for whom data are collected pursuant to Section I.2 above for discipline or are disproportionately responsible for imposing disciplinary sanctions that include exclusion from the educational program;

e. Examination of whether disproportionately high numbers of any group of students for whom data are collected pursuant to Section I.2 above are referred to law enforcement or the SRO is involved in disproportionately high numbers of disciplinary referrals of students of a particular group;

f. Examination of whether any group of students for whom data are collected pursuant to Section I.2 above are disproportionately referred for offenses in which subjective judgment is exercised, while students of other groups are not;

g. Examination of whether all students are consistently referred for similar misbehaviors;

h. Examination of whether waivers of punishment, if available, are available to all students;

i. Examination of whether penalties imposed are consistent with the penalties specified in the District’s discipline policies and procedures and, where exceptions are made, whether they are justified.

j. A summary of all of the complaints received and their disposition by the District administrator identified by the superintendent to handle parent/student complaints related to discipline issues.

• By August 30, 2013, and annually thereafter until the monitoring of this Agreement is closed, the District will submit reports to OCR documenting its implementation of Sections I.3, I.4, I.5, and I.6 of this Agreement for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years, respectively, and subsequent school years, as appropriate. The report will demonstrate that the meetings required by Sections I.4 and I.5 of the Agreement have taken place and indicate whether any problems or best practices were identified. If so, the report will describe what actions were taken or are being taken by the District in response. In addition, the report will summarize the conclusions reached by the discipline review team regarding the disciplinary actions taken at each District school during the school year, along with a description of any changes to the District’s student discipline policies being made or considered by the District as a result of the District’s implementation of Section I.6.
J. Requests for Redress/Correction

1. With respect to the individual cases of different treatment of students provided to the District by OCR during the investigation of this compliance review, the District will correct the records of the students regarding the infraction and the sanction imposed, as appropriate, and provide individual notice of the change in the official record to each student’s parents, or if the student is 18 years old or older, to the student.

2. The District may determine on its own initiative, or in conjunction with the consultant, that records related to one or more additional categories of discipline from the 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11 school years should be corrected. If correction is appropriate, the District will correct the records of the students and provide individual notice of the change in the official record to each student’s parents, or if the student is 18 years old or older, to the student.

3. The District shall offer to provide compensatory academic services to those students who will be enrolled in the District during school year 2012-2013 and who had individual out-of-school suspension assignments of five days or longer duration that were corrected pursuant to the provisions of this section.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- By June 30, 2013, the District will provide to OCR copies of all corrections and/or modifications of disciplinary sanctions made under Section J.1.
- By June 30, 2013, the District will notify OCR whether it corrected records and issued notices under Section J.2, and if so an explanation of the action taken.
- By August 30, 2013, the District will provide to OCR a list of students who were provided compensatory educational services pursuant to Section J.3, the amount of time that each student was out of school pursuant to the discipline imposed, and the nature and extent of the compensatory services provided to each student.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

The District understands that by signing this Agreement, it agrees to provide data and other information in a timely manner. Further the District understands that during the monitoring of this Agreement, OCR may visit the District, interview staff and students and request such additional reports or data as are necessary for OCR to determine whether the District has fulfilled the terms of this Agreement and is in compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI at 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(a) and (b)(1) and (2), which were at issue in this compliance review.
The District understands that OCR will not close the monitoring of this Agreement until OCR
determines that the District has fulfilled the terms of this Agreement and is in compliance with the
regulation implementing Title VI at 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(a) and (b)(1) and (2).

The District understands and acknowledges that OCR may initiate administrative enforcement or
judicial proceedings to enforce the specific terms and obligations of this Agreement. Before
initiating administrative enforcement (34 C.F.R. §§ 100.9, 100.10), or judicial proceedings to
enforce this Agreement, OCR shall give the District written notice of the alleged breach and a
minimum of sixty (60) calendar days to cure the alleged breach.

12/12/12 _________________   _____/s/__________________________
Date      Superintendent