



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**

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CHICAGO, IL 60661-4544

REGION V
ILLINOIS
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IOWA
MINNESOTA
NORTH DAKOTA
WISCONSIN

September 30, 2014

Dr. Bernadeia H. Johnson
Superintendent
Minneapolis Public Schools
1250 W. Broadway Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Re: OCR Docket # 05-13-1202

Dear Dr. Johnson:

This is to advise you of the disposition of the above-referenced complaint filed with the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), on March 19, 2013, against Minneapolis Public Schools (District) alleging discrimination on the bases of race and national origin.

Specifically, the complaint alleged that Minneapolis Public Schools (District) discriminated against students on the bases of race and national origin when, during the 2012-2013 school year, it engaged in the following conduct:

1. Subjected black students at the District's South High School (School) to a hostile environment on the basis of race (Black) when School students harassed them on the basis of race and the District failed to stop the harassment.
2. Subjected Somali School students to a hostile environment on the basis of national origin when School students harassed them on the basis of national origin and the District failed to stop the harassment.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin by recipients of Federal financial assistance. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department, the District is subject to the provisions of Title VI. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on our website at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

In accordance with Section 302 of OCR's *Case Processing Manual* a complaint may be resolved at any time when, before the conclusion of an investigation, the recipient expresses an interest in resolving the complaint. Prior to the conclusion of OCR's investigation, the District requested to resolve the complaint. Subsequent discussions with the District resulted

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in the District signing the enclosed agreement (Agreement) which, when fully implemented, will resolve the issues raised in the complaint.

OCR will monitor the District's implementation of the Agreement. If the District fails to implement the Agreement, we may initiate administrative enforcement or judicial proceedings to enforce the specific terms and obligations of the Agreement. We look forward to receiving the District's first report on its implementation of the Agreement by October 30, 2014.

Please be advised the District 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, we 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.

If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact Jason Frazer at 312-730-1653.

Sincerely,

Ann Cook-Graver
Supervisory Attorney

Enclosure