

Reference OCR#: 06131724

Mr. Matt Underwood, Superintendent
Lago Vista Independent School District
P.O. Box 4929
Lago Vista, Texas 78645

Dear Mr. Underwood:

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Dallas Office, has completed its consideration of the above-referenced complaint which was received September 20, 2013, and filed against the Lago Vista Independent School District (LVISD), Lago Vista, Texas. The complainant alleged that the LVISD discriminated against a student during the 2012-2013 school year on the basis of disability in violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), 29 U.S.C. § 794, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 104 (2013); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II), 42 U.S.C. §§ 12131 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2013), which prohibit discrimination based on disability. Specifically, the complainant alleged that during the 2012-2013 school year, the LVISD discriminated against her son (hereinafter referred to as “the student”) on the basis of disability when the LVISD denied the student an appropriate public education when it failed to implement the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) as it relates to the benchmarks, short-term objectives and providing raw data of the student’s progress biweekly. Additionally, the complainant alleged that the district’s staff providing services for the student had not been properly trained.

This agency is responsible for determining whether organizations that receive or benefit from Federal financial assistance from the Department, or an agency that has delegated investigative authority to the Department, are in compliance with Section 504, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. OCR is also responsible for enforcing Title II. Under Title II, OCR has jurisdiction over complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of disability that are filed against public entities. The LVISD is a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department and a public entity. Therefore, OCR had jurisdictional authority to process this complaint for resolution under Section 504 and Title II.

Regarding the complaint allegations, OCR investigated the issue of whether the LVISD denied the student an appropriate public education by failing provide him with regular or special

education and related aids and services as required by Section 504 and its implementing regulation at 34 CFR §104.35 and Title II and its implementing regulation at 28 CFR § 35.149.

The LVISD and the complainant agreed to participate in OCR's voluntary Rapid Resolution Process (RRP) in this case. The RRP process is designed to expedite resolution of certain OCR complaints. As part of the RRP process, OCR reviewed information provided by the complainant and the LVISD, which included its policies, procedures and other pertinent data, and conducted telephonic conferences with the LVISD's administrative staff.

During the RRP, the LVISD expressed a desire to voluntarily resolve this issue. Consistent with Section 302 of OCR's *Complaint Processing Manual*, LVISD submitted the enclosed Resolution Agreement (Agreement) on March 17, 2014, which OCR has determined addresses the compliance issues raised and which when fully implemented, will resolve the allegations.

Accordingly, as of the date of this letter, OCR will cease all investigative action regarding this issue; however, OCR will actively monitor the implementation of the Agreement by the LVISD to determine whether the commitments made by the LVISD have been implemented consistently with the terms of the Agreement. If the LVISD fails to implement the Agreement, as specified, OCR will resume its investigation of the issue alleged. If the LVISD determines a need to modify any portion of the Agreement, the LVISD may submit, for consideration, proposed revisions to OCR.

Based on OCR's monitoring of the implementation of the Agreement related to this issue, we are closing the investigative phase of this complaint in accordance with our case processing procedures.

This letter sets forth OCR's determination in an individual OCR case. This letter is not a formal statement of OCR policy and should not be relied upon, cited, or construed as such. OCR's formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public. The complainant may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

Under OCR procedures we are obligated to advise the complainant and the institution against which a complaint is filed that intimidation or retaliation against a complainant is prohibited by the regulations enforced by this agency. Specifically, the regulations enforced by OCR, directly or by reference, state that no recipient or other person shall intimidate, threaten, coerce or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by the regulations enforced by OCR or because an individual has made a complaint, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding or hearing held in connection with a complaint.

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.

Page 3 - Mr. Matt Underwood, Superintendent

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Treslyn Patterson, Equal Opportunity Specialist, of our staff, at 214/ 661-9645

Sincerely,

John Stephens
Compliance Team Leader
Dallas Office

Enclosure