



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

1999 BRYAN ST., SUITE 1620
DALLAS, TX 75201-6810

REGION VI
ARKANSAS
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS

June 30, 2017

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, Superintendent
Edgewood Independent School District
5358 W. Commerce Street
San Antonio, TX 78237

Re: Edgewood Independent School District
OCR Number: 06-16-1837

Dear XX. XXXXXX:

This letter is to inform you of the disposition of the above-referenced complaint filed against Edgewood Independent School District (District) with the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), on September 19, 2016, alleging discrimination on the basis of disability. Specifically, the complaint alleged that certain of the District's web pages are not accessible to students and adults with disabilities, including vision impairments. These include, but are not limited to:

- a. The Edgewood ISD home page (<http://www.eisd.net/Page/1>)
- b. Communities
(<http://www.eisd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageType=1&SiteID=1&ChannelID=10&DirectoryType=6>)
- c. Schools
(<http://www.eisd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageType=1&SiteID=1&ChannelID=3493&DirectoryType=6>)
- d. Student Support Services (<http://www.eisd.net/Domain/88>)
- e. Parent Resources (<http://www.eisd.net/Page/26633>)
- f. Student Information (<http://www.eisd.net/Page/28652>)

OCR enforces Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 104, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by recipients of Federal financial assistance. OCR also enforces Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12131, and its implementing regulation, 28 C.F.R. Part 35, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department and a public entity, the Edgewood ISD is subject to Section 504, Title II and their implementing regulations.

Based on the complaint allegations, OCR opened an investigation of the following issues:

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Whether the EISD discriminates against individuals with disabilities on a systemic basis because certain of its web pages are not accessible to students and adults with disabilities including, but not limited to, vision impairments. These inaccessible web pages include:

- a. The Edgewood ISD home page (<http://www.eisd.net/Page/1>)
- b. Communities
(<http://www.eisd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageType=1&SiteID=1&ChannelID=10&DirectoryType=6>)
- c. Schools
(<http://www.eisd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageType=1&SiteID=1&ChannelID=3493&DirectoryType=6>)
- d. Student Support Services (<http://www.eisd.net/Domain/88>)
- e. Parent Resources (<http://www.eisd.net/Page/26633>)
- f. Student Information (<http://www.eisd.net/Page/28652>)

Legal Authority:

Section 504 and Title II prohibit people, on the basis of disability, from being excluded from participation in, being denied the benefits of, or otherwise being subjected to discrimination by recipients of federal financial assistance or by public entities. 34 C.F.R. § 104.4 and 28 C.F.R. § 35.130. People with disabilities must have equal access to recipients' programs, services, or activities unless doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the programs, services, or activities, or would impose an undue burden. 28 C.F.R. § 35.164. Both Section 504 and Title II prohibit affording individuals with disabilities an opportunity to participate in or benefit from aids, benefits, and services that is unequal to the opportunity afforded others. 34 C.F.R. § 104.4(b)(1)(ii); 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(1)(ii). Similarly, individuals with disabilities must be provided with aids, benefits, or services that provide an equal opportunity to achieve the same result or the same level of achievement as others. 34 C.F.R. § 104.4(b)(2); 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(1)(iii). An individual with a disability, or a class of individuals with disabilities, may be provided with a different or separate aid, benefit, or service only if doing so is necessary to ensure that the aid, benefit, or service is as effective as that provided to others. 34 C.F.R. § 104.4(b)(1)(iv); 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(1)(iv). Title II also requires public entities to take steps to ensure that communications with people with disabilities are as effective as communications with others, subject to the fundamental alteration and undue burden defenses. 28 C.F.R. § 35.160(a)(1). In sum, programs, services, and activities—whether in a “brick and mortar,” on-line, or other “virtual” context—must be operated in ways that comply with Section 504 and Title II.

Investigation To Date:

To date, OCR has investigated this complaint by reviewing information provided by the Complainant and conducting a preliminary assessment of the accessibility of several pages from the District's website.

The complaint alleges that the District's website is not in compliance with Section 504 and Title II because it is inaccessible to individuals with vision disabilities, print disabilities, physical impairments, and hearing impairments. The Complainant used website accessibility checkers (PowerMapper and WAVE) and reported to OCR that the District's web pages identified above have accessibility issues for individuals with disabilities. XXX then provided OCR with a list of errors copied and pasted from the website accessibility checker that XXX used.

OCR conducted a preliminary examination of the web pages identified by the Complainant and found possible compliance concerns as to whether the District's website is accessible to individuals with disabilities. For example, at the time of OCR's review, the District's home page, Student support services, Communities, Parent resources, Schools, and Student information pages lacked some form labels or titles; the District's Home page, Communities, Parent resources, Schools, and Student information pages, did not have meaningful alternative text to nontrivial graphics, images or links; keyboard controls could not access all content and functions and/or were not visually apparent on the District's Student support services, Communities, Parent Resources, and Student Information pages; the Home page, Student support services, Communities, Parent resources, and Student information pages had PDFs linked that did not have selectable text or were otherwise inaccessible to persons with disabilities; the Homepage portal included non-English words but did not indicate the appropriate language in the HTML coding; and the Home page, Student support services, Communities, Parent resources, Schools, and Student information pages did not have appropriate visual contrast.

Prior to the completion of OCR's investigation, the District asked to resolve this complaint pursuant to Section 302 of OCR's *Case Processing Manual* (CPM). On June 22, 2017, the District submitted the enclosed signed resolution agreement (the Agreement) to OCR. When fully implemented, the Agreement will resolve the allegations in the complaint.

In light of the commitments the District has made in the Agreement, OCR finds that the complaint is resolved, and OCR is closing its investigation as of the date of this letter. OCR will monitor the District's implementation of the Agreement to ensure that the commitments made are implemented timely and effectively. OCR may request additional information as necessary to determine whether the University has fulfilled the terms of the Agreement and is in compliance with Section 504 and Title II with regard to the issues raised.

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

This concludes OCR's investigation of the complaint and should not be interpreted to address the District's compliance with any other regulatory provision or to address any issues other than those addressed in this letter.

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.

Please be advised that 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 harmed individual may file a complaint alleging such treatment.

The Complainant may file a private suit in federal court, whether or not OCR finds a violation.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this letter 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.

OCR looks forward to receiving the District's first monitoring report by September 15, 2017. For questions about implementation of the Agreement, please contact Gerardo Rojas, who will be monitoring the District's implementation, by e-mail at Gerardo.Rojas@ed.gov or by telephone at 214-661-9612. For questions about this letter, please contact team leader Melissa Malonson at 214-661-9600.

Sincerely,

Taylor D. August
Director
Office for Civil Rights
Dallas Office

Enclosure: Resolution Agreement