



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

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

REGION VI
ARKANSAS
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS

February 14, 2018

Ref: 06165001

Mr. Kelly Rodgers, Superintendent
North Little Rock School District
2700 North Poplar Street
North Little Rock, AR 72114

Via first class mail and email to rodgerske@nlrsd.org

Dear Superintendent Rodgers:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Dallas Office, has resolved the above-referenced compliance review of the North Little Rock School District (NLRSD or District), in North Little Rock, Arkansas. OCR initiated this compliance review to determine whether the District discriminates against students based on race.

OCR is responsible for determining whether entities 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 Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 100. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the bases of race, color, and national origin. The District is a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department. Therefore, OCR has jurisdictional authority to conduct this compliance review under Title VI.

OCR opened for investigation the following issue in this compliance review:

Whether the NLRSD discriminates against African-American students with respect to access, referral, identification, and selection for the District's Gifted and Talented (GATE) services; middle school advanced or honors courses; and high school Advanced Placement (AP), advanced, honors, and other high-level and career-building courses; and whether such discrimination has occurred regarding access to foundation courses that are essential to prepare students to take rigorous courses in middle and high school and to provide them with the skills necessary for success in college and their careers.

During its investigation, OCR reviewed information provided by the District. Prior to the completion of OCR's compliance review, the District informed OCR that it was interested in resolving the compliance review. Section 302 of OCR's *Case Processing Manual* (CPM) provides that a complaint may be resolved at any time when, prior to the conclusion of an investigation, the recipient expresses an interest in resolving the investigation. Further, the CPM

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

provides that the provisions of the voluntary resolution agreement will be aligned with the complaint allegations or the information obtained during the investigation, and will be consistent with applicable regulations. OCR approved the District's request to resolve this compliance review prior to the conclusion of its investigation.

The District signed the enclosed Resolution Agreement (Agreement) on February 14, 2018. OCR has determined the provisions of the Agreement are aligned with the issue opened and appropriately resolves it. Further, OCR accepts the Agreement as an assurance the District will fulfill its obligations under Title VI with respect to this compliance review. The dates for implementation and specific actions are detailed in the enclosed Agreement. As of the date of this letter, OCR's compliance review is closed. OCR will monitor the District's implementation of the Agreement. Please be advised that if the District fails to adhere to the actions outlined in the Agreement, OCR will resume its compliance efforts.

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 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 individual may file a 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.

Thank you for your cooperation during this compliance review. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact General Attorney Cristin Hedman, the investigator assigned to the matter, at (214)-661-9647 or cristin.hedman@ed.gov, or me, at (214)-661-9648 or timothy.caum@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Timothy D. Caum
Supervisory Attorney/Team Leader
OCR, Dallas Office

Enclosure: Signed Resolution Agreement

CC: [XXXX to end of CC line]