



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 12, 2018

Jay McWilliams, Superintendent
Big Spring Independent School District
708 11th Place
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Via first class mail

Ref: Big Spring Independent School District-OCR No. 06181194

Dear Superintendent McWilliams:

The U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Dallas Office, has resolved the above-referenced complaint, filed against the Big Spring Independent School District (Big Spring ISD, District, or Recipient), in Big Spring, Texas. The Complainant alleged that Big Spring ISD discriminates against her based on disability because she is unable to access the handicap spaces in front of the main entrance of Big Spring Junior High after school because they get blocked by other vehicles in the student pick-up line.

OCR is responsible for determining whether entities that receive or benefit from federal financial assistance from the Department (recipients), or an agency that has delegated investigative authority to the Department, are in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), 29 U.S.C. §794 (amended 1992), and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. OCR also enforces Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II), 42 U.S.C. § 12132, and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. Part 35. Under Title II, OCR has jurisdiction over complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of disability that are filed against certain public entities. The District is a recipient and a public entity. Thus, OCR has jurisdiction to resolve this complaint under Section 504 and Title II.

OCR opened for investigation the following legal issue:

- Whether the Complainant, a person with a disability, was denied the benefits of, excluded from participation in, or otherwise subjected to discrimination by the Recipient because the handicap spaces in front of the main entrance of Big Spring Junior High are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities, (e.g., the designated handicap spaces get blocked after school by other vehicles in the student pick-up line), in violation of Section 504 and Title II, at 34 C.F.R. §§ 104.21-104.23, and 28 C.F.R. §§ 35.149-35.151, respectively.

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

Prior to the completion of OCR's investigation, the Recipient informed OCR that it was interested in resolving the complaint allegation. Section 302 of OCR's *Case Processing Manual* 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 allegation. The provisions of the resulting 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 Recipient's request to resolve this complaint prior to the conclusion of the investigation.

The Recipient voluntarily signed the enclosed Resolution Agreement (Agreement) on June 12, 2018. OCR has determined the provisions of the Agreement are aligned with the complaint allegations and appropriately resolves them. Further, OCR accepts the Agreement as an assurance that the Recipient will fulfill its obligations under Section 504 and Title II with respect to this complaint. The dates for implementation and specific actions are detailed in the enclosed Agreement.

This concludes OCR's investigation of this complaint. However, OCR will monitor the Recipient's implementation of the Agreement. Please be advised that if the Recipient fails to adhere to the actions outlined in the Agreement, OCR will immediately 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 Recipient 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.

Thank you for the cooperation extended to OCR in our efforts to resolve this complaint. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, you may contact the investigator attorney assigned to your complaint, Craig Nydick, at (214)-661-9622 or craig.nydick@ed.gov. You may also contact me at (214)-661-9648.

Sincerely,

Timothy Caum
Supervisory Attorney/Team Leader
Office for Civil Rights
Dallas Office