

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

1999 BRYAN STREET, SUITE 1620 DALLAS, TEXAS 75201-6831

April 9, 2019

Dr. Scott Muri, Superintendent Spring Branch Independent School District 955 Campbell Road Houston, TX 77204

RE: 06181648

Dear Dr. Muri:

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 complaint against Spring Branch Independent School District (SBISD) and received by OCR May 4, 2018. In this complaint, which the complainant filed XXXXXXXXX, the complainant alleged that the SBISD discriminates against persons with disabilities (i.e., mobility impairments) by failing to provide accessible parking and accessible routes at the Memorial Middle School's Sports Complex (Sports Complex) during XXXXXX academic school year.

OCR is responsible for determining whether organizations that receive or benefit from Federal financial assistance, either from the Department or from 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, and its implementing regulations, at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II), 42 U.S.C. § 12132, and its implementing regulations, at 28 C.F.R. Part 35, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities.

Prior to the conclusion of OCR's investigation, SBISD informed OCR that it was interested in resolving the complaint. Section 302 of OCR's Case Processing Manual (CPM) provides that a complaint may be resolved at any time when, before the conclusion of an investigation, the recipient expresses an interest in resolving the complaint and OCR determines that such a resolution is appropriate. The provisions of the resolution agreement will be aligned with the complaint allegations or the information obtained during the investigation and will be consistent with applicable regulations. OCR determined that a resolution under Section 302 of the CPM was appropriate.

On April 4, 2019, SBISD voluntarily signed a resolution agreement (Agreement) to resolve the complaint allegations. A copy of the Agreement is enclosed. OCR determined that the provisions of the Agreement are aligned with the complaint allegations and appropriately resolve them. Further, OCR accepts the

REGION VI ARKANSAS LOUISIANA MISSISSIPPI TEXAS Agreement as an assurance that SBISD will fulfill its obligations under Section 504/Title II with respect to the complaint allegation. The dates for implementation and specific actions are detailed in the Agreement. OCR will monitor SBISD's implementation of the Agreement.

Effective the date of this letter, OCR is closing the investigation of this complaint. This letter should not be interpreted to address SBISD'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. You may have the right to file a private suit in Federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

Please be advised that SBISD 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 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 concerning this letter, please contact Ennise Y. Henderson, the Investigator assigned to the complaint, at (214) 661-9681, or by email at <u>ennise.henderson@ed.gov</u>. You may also contact me at (214) 661-9608 or by email at <u>paul.coxe@ed.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Paul Edward Coxe Supervisory Attorney Office for Civil Rights- Dallas Office

cc: Frances Broussard General Counsel Spring Branch ISD XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Enclosure