



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS -- REGION VII

November 18, 2013

Joe Van Tuyl, Superintendent  
Stroud Public Schools  
212 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Stroud, Oklahoma 74079

Re: OCR Docket # 07131149

Dear Superintendent Van Tuyl:

On May 6, 2013, the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received a complaint against the Stroud Public Schools (District), Stroud, Oklahoma, alleging discrimination on the basis of race. This letter is to confirm that the District has voluntarily submitted a Resolution Agreement to OCR to resolve this complaint.

Specifically, the complainants alleged the District discriminated against their son (who is African American) and other African American/biracial students on the basis of race by creating or allowing a racially hostile environment to exist. In particular, the complainants alleged that in April 2013, a District teacher showed a movie about slavery to third grade students at the Parkview Elementary School (Parkview) that included racial epithets, depicted violence against African Americans, and was not age appropriate. They also alleged that the teacher made students, including their son, act out the role of "slave children" who were taken away from their parents. The complainants stated that District administrators failed to take appropriate action to address the racially hostile environment caused by the showing of the movie.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 United States Code § 2000d, and its implementing regulation at 34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 100. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin by recipients of Federal financial assistance (FFA).

As a recipient of FFA from the Department, the District is subject to Title VI. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on our website at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

Prior to the completion of OCR's investigation, the District submitted a signed Agreement (copy enclosed) on November 15, 2013, that, when fully implemented, will address the allegations of this complaint.

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[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

OCR considers the allegations of this complaint resolved effective the date of this letter and will monitor the District's implementation of the Agreement. When OCR concludes the District has fully implemented the terms of the Agreement, OCR will close the complaint. If the District fails to carry out the Agreement, OCR may resume its investigation.

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 complainants may have the right to file a private suit in Federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

OCR is committed to prompt and effective service. If you have any questions, please contact XXXXX XXXXX, Attorney, at (816) 268-XXXX (voice) or (877) 521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or by e-mail at XXXXX.XXXXX@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kelli Douglas

Kelli Douglas  
Supervisory Attorney

Enclosure

cc: Janet Barresi  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction