



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
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1010 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 320
KANSAS CITY, MO 64106

REGION VII
KANSAS
MISSOURI
NEBRASKA
OKLAHOMA
SOUTH DAKOTA

September 27, 2017

XXXXXX XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXX X XXXXXX, XXX
Attorneys at Law
XXXXX XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX, XXXXXX XXX
St. Louis Missouri XXXXXX

Re: Docket # 07161101

Dear Ms. XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX:

On February 9, 2017, the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received a complaint against the Grain Valley R-V School District (District), Grain Valley, Missouri, alleging the discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin by the District. This letter is to confirm the District has voluntarily submitted a Resolution Agreement (Agreement) to resolve this complaint.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 100. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin by recipients of Federal financial assistance. The Title VI regulation at 34 C.F.R. § 100.7(e) prohibits retaliation for engaging in a protected activity. 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>.

OCR opened an investigation into whether the District failed to respond adequately to redress the racially hostile environment arising from the harassment of the complainant's son and daughter by other students in violation of 34 C.F.R. §100.3.

The District provided OCR with copies of the District policies addressing race-based, reports of bullying and harassment based upon race and or national origin, discipline records for students who received office referrals for bullying or harassment on the basis of race or national origin, and information about the racial composition of the Grain Valley Middle School (School) population. On July 19, 2017, OCR conducted on-site interviews of the District's Compliance Officer and Acting Compliance Officer, the School principal, School assistant principal, and two School teachers. OCR also interviewed the Complainant as part of its investigation. On August 10, 2017, the District expressed interest in resolving the complaint allegation pursuant to section 302 of OCR's Case Processing Manual.¹

¹ The *Case Processing Manual* is available online at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocrspm.html>.

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

On September 27, 2017, prior to the completion of OCR's investigation, the District submitted a signed Agreement (copy enclosed) that, when fully implemented, will address the allegations of this complaint. 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 the 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 Complainant may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

Please be advised that the District may not harass, coerce, intimidate, or discriminate against an individual because that individual 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.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ J. Earlene Gordon
J. Earlene Gordon
Supervisory Attorney

Enclosure