



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

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October 7, 2020

Dr. Barbara Remondini, Superintendent  
Wickenburg Unified School District  
101 E. Coconino St.  
Wickenburg, AZ 85390

**Sent via email to [bremondini@wusd9.org](mailto:bremondini@wusd9.org)**

Re: Wickenburg Unified School District #9  
OCR Case Numbers: 08-20-1045 and 08-20-1054

Dear Dr. Remondini:

We are concluding our investigation of the above-referenced complaints, filed on November 1, 2019. The complainants alleged that the District discriminates on the basis of sex. Specifically, the complainants alleged that Wickenburg Unified School District #9 (District) at Wickenburg High School (School) discriminates against females in the interscholastic athletic program because it does not provide female student athletes with equivalent benefits in the following athletic program components:

- Equipment and supplies,
- Opportunity to receive coaching and academic tutoring, and
- Travel and per diem allowance.

Additionally, the complainants allege that the School discriminates against female athletes because it does not provide them with access to referee services equivalent to those provided to male athletes.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in activities and programs that receive Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. The District receives Federal financial assistance from the Department and is subject to the requirements of Title IX.

We conducted interviews with the complainants, engaged in communications with District's counsel, and received a partial data response from the District. The District then expressed an interest in resolving the issues being investigated. OCR determined that it was appropriate to resolve the issues pursuant to Section 302 of our Case Processing Manual (CPM). The provisions of the Agreement are tied to the allegations opened for investigation and evidence obtained during the investigation and are consistent with applicable regulations.

The complainants alleged that during the 2019-2020 school year, the District planned on requiring the School's girls' soccer team to be self-funded, which meant that the girls' soccer

team was required to pay for costs including referees, uniforms, transportation, and coach stipends. The complainants further alleged that the District fully funded each of the School's other athletic teams. Our preliminary investigation found that the girls' soccer team was not ultimately responsible for paying for these costs. In response to the complainants' allegations, the District denied the allegations, stating that it treats all boys and girls athletic teams equally regarding coaching selection, stipends, and number of coaches per team; availability of uniforms, equipment, and supplies, payment of travel expenses and costs; and the provision and payment of referee services.

Interviews with District and School staff and additional records were necessary to determine whether the District discriminated as alleged. However, further information was not obtained because, as mentioned above, during our investigation and before we made final findings regarding the complaint allegation, the District expressed a willingness to resolve the complaint. The District agreed to provide Title IX Athletics training to the School's Athletic Director, Principal, Business Manager, Superintendent, and Human Resources Director, as well as all District athletic coaches and assistant coaches.

A copy of the signed Resolution Agreement is enclosed. When the Agreement is fully implemented, this allegation will be resolved consistent with the requirements of Title IX, and its implementing regulations. OCR will monitor implementation of this Agreement through periodic reports from the District about the status of the Agreement terms. We will provide the District written notice of any deficiencies regarding implementation of the terms of the Agreement and will require prompt actions to address such deficiencies. If the District fails to implement the Agreement, we will take appropriate action, as described in the Agreement. The Complainant will receive a copy of our monitoring letters.

Please note that the complainants may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation. Please also be advised that 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 another complaint alleging such treatment.

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.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, we will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personal information, which, if released, could constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this matter, and the assistance of Mr. Ben Hufford. If you have any questions, please contact XXXXX or XXXXX, the attorneys assigned to this case, at XXXXX or XXXXX, respectively.

Sincerely,

/s/

Stephen Chen  
Supervisory Attorney

Enclosure – Copy of Resolution Agreement

Cc (via email): C. Benson Hufford, Attorney for the District, Hufford, Horstman, Mongini, Parnell & Tucker, PC; Kathy Hoffman, Superintendent, Arizona Department of Education