



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

1244 SPEER BLVD., SUITE 310
DENVER, CO 80204-3582

REGION VIII

ARIZONA
COLORADO
NEW MEXICO
UTAH
WYOMING

December 9, 2021

Superintendent Chris Knutsen
Florence Unified School District
1000 S. Main St.
P.O. Box 2850
Florence, AZ 85132

Sent via email only to: XXX@XXX & XXX@XXX

Re: Florence Unified School District
Case Number: 08-21-1315

Dear Superintendent Knutsen,

The United States Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) received a complaint against the Florence Unified School District (the District). The Complainant alleged the District discriminated against her client (Student) on the basis of disability. Specifically, the Complainant alleged the District discriminated against the Student by failing to implement the Student's IEP as it relates to sign language interpreters and for failing to ensure that the Student was provided with effective communication.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulation at 34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 104, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the Department; Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. Part 35, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department and a public entity, the District is subject to these laws and regulations. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on OCR's website at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

During the investigation of this complaint, OCR reviewed the Complainant's OCR complaint and communicated with the Complainant and the District's counsel. On September 2, 2021, the District informed OCR that it wished to voluntarily resolve the complaint allegation. Prior to OCR making any findings of fact, the District agreed to sign an Agreement which, when fully implemented, will address the allegation raised in the complaint.

In accordance with Section 302 of OCR's *Case Processing Manual*, the provisions of the Agreement signed by the District are aligned with the complaint allegation and the information obtained during OCR's processing of this case, and consistent with the applicable regulations.

Therefore, OCR is closing this complaint investigation effective the date of this letter. OCR, however, will actively monitor the District's implementation of the Agreement until the District fulfills the terms of the Agreement. If the District fails to implement the Agreement as specified, OCR may initiate administrative or judicial proceedings as described in the Agreement or resume its investigation of the initial allegation. A copy of the Agreement is enclosed.

Please 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 harmed individual may file a 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. If OCR receives such a request, OCR will protect personal information to the extent provided by law.

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.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Germano, Attorney and primary contact for this case, at (XXX) XXX-XXXX or by email at XXX@ed.gov, or me at (XXX) XXX-XXXX or by email at XXX@ed.gov.

Sincerely,
/S/
Michael D. Todd
Supervisory Attorney

Enclosures – Signed Resolution Agreement

Cc: Kathy Hoffman (AZ Superintendent of Public Instruction) via email at AdeInbox@azed.gov