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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

915 2ND AVE., SUITE 3310
SEATTLE, WA 98174-1099

January 15, 2019

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Mr. Lee Paterson
Superintendent
Roseburg School District 4
1419 NW Valley View Drive
Roseburg, Oregon 97471

Re: Roseburg School District 4
OCR Reference No. 10181307

Dear Superintendent Paterson:

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has resolved the referenced complaint against Roseburg School District 4. OCR investigated whether, during the 2017-2018 school year, the district discriminated against students with disabilities by dismissing them from school early in order to receive specialized transportation services, resulting in a shorter school day than provided to non-disabled students.

OCR enforces Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II). The regulations that implement Section 504 and Title II prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance and in public entities, respectively. The district receives Federal financial assistance from the Department and is required to comply with these Federal civil rights laws.

The regulation implementing Section 504 at 34 C.F.R. § 104.4(b) prohibits a recipient from denying a qualified disabled person the opportunity to participate in or benefit from the recipient's aids, benefits, or services, and prohibits a recipient from affording a qualified disabled person an opportunity to participate in or benefit from aids, benefits, or services that is not equal to that afforded to others. The regulation implementing Title II at 28 C.F.R. § 35.130 states that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any public entity.

Based on the investigation to date, which included information provided by the complainant and the recipient, OCR has a concern that students with disabilities were being dismissed from district schools early in order to receive specialized transportation services, resulting in a shorter school day than provided to non-disabled students.

In accordance with Section 302 of the OCR *Case Processing Manual*, a complaint may be resolved at any time when, prior to the point a final determination is issued, the recipient expresses an interest in resolving the complaint allegation with a Voluntary Resolution Agreement (agreement) and OCR determines that it is appropriate to resolve the issues under investigation with such an agreement. Prior to OCR making a final determination regarding the issue investigated in the referenced complaint, the district expressed an interest in voluntarily resolving the complaint. In light of the district's willingness to address the complaint allegation comprehensively, OCR determined it was appropriate to enter into an agreement to resolve the issue under investigation. Subsequent discussions with the district resulted in the district superintendent signing the enclosed agreement, which when fully implemented will address the issue raised in this complaint.

OCR will monitor the implementation of the agreement and will close the complaint when OCR determines that the terms of the agreement have been satisfied. The first report under the agreement is due by February 11, 2019.

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 any individual because he or she has 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.

Thank you for your assistance in resolving this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Riley, the OCR staff member assigned to this complaint. You can reach Mr. Riley at (206) 607-1635 or at steven.m.riley@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Paul Goodwin
Supervisory Attorney

Enclosure: Voluntary Resolution Agreement

cc: Honorable Salam Noor, Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction