

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202-1475

REGION XI NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA VIRGINIA WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 8, 2013

Dr. N'deye Diagne Head of School Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School 1920 Bladensburg Road, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002

> Re: OCR Complaint No. 11-13-1096 Resolution Letter

Dear Dr. Diagne:

This letter is notification of the outcome of the complaint that was filed with the District of Columbia Office for Civil Rights (OCR), within the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) on January 25, 2013, against the Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School (the School). The Complainant alleged that the School discriminated against her son (the Student) on the basis of sex. Specifically, she alleged that during the 2012-2013 school year, the School failed to promptly and appropriately respond to incidents in which the Student was subject to peer sexual harassment.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 (Title IX) and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance (FFA). Because the School is a recipient of FFA, it is subject to the provisions of Title IX.

Pursuant to Section 302 of OCR's *Case Processing Manual*, OCR discussed resolution options with the School. During the course of OCR's investigation, the School expressed an interest in resolving the allegations under a voluntary resolution agreement, which is attached. The School signed the enclosed agreement which, when fully implemented, will resolve the allegations in the complaint. The provisions of the agreement are aligned with the allegations raised in the complaint and information obtained during the course of OCR's investigation, and are consistent with the applicable regulations. OCR will monitor implementation of the agreement.

We have advised the Complainant that the School may not harass, coerce, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual for filing a complaint or participating in the complaint resolution process. If this happens, the individual may file another complaint alleging such

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treatment. Also, 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 that, if released, could constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

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.

We appreciated the assistance of the School, in particular Jennifer Segal, the School's Attorney, during the resolution of this complaint. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kay Bhagat at (202) 453-6598 or <u>Kay.Bhagat@ed.gov</u> or Tracey Solomon, at (202) 453-5930 or at <u>Tracey.Solomon@ed.gov</u>.

Sincerely, /S/ Olabisi L. Okubadejo Team Leader District of Columbia Office Office for Civil Rights

Enclosure

cc: Jennifer Segal, Brustein & Manasevit, PLLC