
Office for Civil Rights Discrimination Complaint Form: Submission #739496

1. Enter information about yourself

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Best Time to Call You: Day

Primary Phone Number:

Alternative Phone Number: {Empty}

Your Email Address:

2. Who else can we call if we cannot reach you?

Contact's Name: {Empty}

Daytime Phone Number: {Empty}

Relationship to you: {Empty}

3. Who was discriminated against?

Yourself or Someone else Someone else?

If someone other than yourself please include:

Injured Person's Name (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

Daytime Phone Number: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

Evening Phone Number:

Relationship to You
(eg. son or daughter) Daughter

Injured Person's Address (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

City: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

State: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A)

Zip Code (b)(6); (b)(7)(A)

4. What institution discriminated?

Institution Name: Evanston Township High School District 203

Address: 1600 Dodge Avenue

City: Evanston

State: Illinois

Zip Code: 60201

School or department involved: ETHS as a whole

5. Have you tried to resolve the complaint through the institution's grievance process, due process hearing, or with another agency?

Have you tried to resolve the complaint? Yes

Agency Name: ETHS administration

Date Filed
(MM/DD/YYYY) (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

If yes, what is the current status of the complaint? No action was taken to resolve the issue.

6. Describe the discrimination

OCR enforces regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin; sex; disability; and/or age.

(You may select more than one.)

On what basis were you discriminated against? national origin

In the space provided below please describe each discriminatory action separately. For each action, you need to provide the following information: On (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) there was a pro-Palestinian protest that took place (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) during school hours. As many as (b)(6) or so students attended, chanting "occupation is a crime, Evanston for Palestine." Administrators and faculty stood by and did nothing.

ETHS rules forbid students to be in the hallways for any reason during class time. School officials have harassed my kids for simply being in the hallways eating lunch (because the student cafeterias were too full to provide a place to sit). Yet, despite these strict rules, they were seemingly waived for this protest. This is a clear example of disparate treatment and is a violation of Title VI.

My daughter (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) This protest, combined with the fact that staff and faculty continue to wear things such as "Free Palestine" pins (which also explicitly violates school code and state law) are creating a culture that is profoundly upsetting and unsafe for Jewish students or any student with connections to the Jewish and Israeli communities.

Do you have written information that you think will help us understand your complaint?

yes or no No

7. Your complaint must be filed within 180 days of the discriminatory action

The laws that we enforce require that complaints be filed with our office within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory event. If any of the alleged discriminatory actions took place more than 180 days before the postmark or receipt date of this complaint, you may request a waiver of the 180-day limit. When did the last act of discrimination occur?

When did the last act of discrimination occur?

Enter the date:

Are you requesting a waiver of the 180-day filing time limit for discrimination that occurred more than 180 days before the filing of this complaint?

Are you requesting a waiver of the 180-day filing time limit for discrimination that occurred more than 180 days before the filing of this complaint?

yes or no No

Reason for not filing complaint before 180 days: {Empty}

8. What would you like the institution to do as a result of your complaint?

What remedy are you seeking? ETHS must consistently apply rules to the entire student body. Faculty should be forbidden from expressing political options, either orally or through clothing/apparel. Incidents of antisemitism should be clearly investigated and consequences should be real and consistent. The board and administration should regularly survey students (and their parents) who identify as Jewish to get their feedback regarding school climate and safety. The school cannot continue to allow harassing/bullying/threatening language and actions directed at Jewish and Israeli students.

9. Option to Participate in OCR's Early Mediation Process

I am interested in participating in early mediation: No



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST., 37TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60604

REGION V
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
IOWA
MINNESOTA
NORTH DAKOTA
WISCONSIN

May 20, 2024

Dr. Marcus A. Campbell
Superintendent
Evanston Township High School District 202
Sent via electronic mail only to campbellm@eths202.org

Re: OCR Docket #05-24-1413

Dear Dr. Campbell:

On March 18, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received the above-referenced complaint filed against the Evanston Township High School District 202 (District). The complaint alleged that the District discriminated against students on the basis of national origin (shared Jewish ancestry) by failing to respond to incidents of harassment since (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d-2000d-7, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, including shared ancestry, in any program or activity operated by a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department. As a recipient of federal financial assistance 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 will investigate the following issue:

- Whether the District responded to alleged harassment of students based on national origin (shared Jewish ancestry) in a manner consistent with the requirements of Title VI.

OCR has determined that it will investigate the complaint. Please understand that opening an investigation does not mean that OCR has made a decision about the complaint. During the investigation, OCR is neutral; OCR will collect and analyze the evidence it needs in order to make a decision about the complaint.

OCR offers, when appropriate, a mediation process to facilitate the voluntary resolution of complaints by providing an early opportunity for the parties involved to resolve the allegation. Some information about the mediation process is in the enclosure to this letter.

In addition, when appropriate, a complaint may be resolved when, prior to the point when OCR issues a final determination, the recipient expresses an interest in resolving the complaint. In such cases, a resolution agreement signed by the recipient and submitted to OCR must address

all of the allegations that OCR determines are appropriate to resolve before the conclusion of an investigation. Information about this kind of resolution is in the enclosure to this letter.

Please read the enclosed document, which includes information about:

- OCR’s complaint processing procedures, including the availability of mediation;
- Regulatory prohibitions against retaliation and intimidation of persons who file complaints with OCR or participate in an OCR investigation; and
- Application of the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act to OCR investigations.

OCR intends to conduct a prompt investigation of this complaint. The regulation implementing Title VI, at 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(b) and (c), requires that a recipient of federal financial assistance make available to OCR information that may be pertinent to a compliance determination. Pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(c) and 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(3)(iii), of the regulation implementing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, OCR may review personally identifiable records without regard to considerations of privacy or confidentiality.

OCR may request supplemental data and documents that are relevant to the allegation under investigation. To ensure that OCR can assess the recipient’s compliance with the statutory and regulatory obligations at issue in this investigation, please ensure that recipient employees preserve the data and documents requested below for any timeframe specified in these requests and going forward until OCR closes this case. Please also ensure that recipient employees preserve other data and documents that are relevant to the allegation under investigation until OCR closes this case.

Accordingly, please provide the following information to us within twenty-one (21) calendar days. Wherever possible, please provide the requested information in electronic format. If responsive data are available through the Internet, please provide the link to the data. Please do not provide OCR documentation or electronic information containing social security numbers (SSN); if SSN appear on a document or file that is otherwise responsive to OCR’s request, please redact the SSN before producing to OCR. Further, it would be helpful if the pages in your response are numbered.

1. A detailed narrative response to the issue opened for investigation.
2. The name, title, and contact information of the District’s:
 - a. Contact person for this complaint; and
 - b. Person(s) responsible for handling complaints that the District receives of harassment and/or discrimination on the basis of national origin, including shared ancestry, and an explanation of each person’s role(s) and responsibilities at each step of the process.
3. A copy of the District’s notice of nondiscrimination, all existing internet links to any notice of nondiscrimination referenced in response to this item, and a statement of how the District publicizes or disseminates the notice to District students, parents/guardians, staff, and others.

4. A copy of the District’s policies prohibiting discrimination and/or harassment based on national origin (including shared ancestry) in effect for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, and a statement of how the District makes these policies available to District students, parents/guardians, staff, and others, including where such policies are published, if applicable.
5. If not included in the response to Request #4, a copy of the District’s policies and procedures and a description of the District’s practices governing the investigation of complaints of harassment and/or discrimination on the basis of national origin, including shared ancestry, as well as a detailed description of the complaint process, including each level of the process, the length of the process, and the types of records maintained.
6. A copy of all formal and informal reports/complaints, and narrative descriptions of verbal reports/complaints, concerning alleged harassment and/or discrimination based on national origin, including shared ancestry, during the 2022-2023 and/or 2023-2024 academic years.
7. If not included in the response to the Request #6, all formal and informal reports/complaints, including a written summary and all records of verbal reports/complaints, regarding the following:
 - a. social media posts containing anti-Jewish sentiments on (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
 - b. the pro-Palestine protest at Evanston Township High School (School) on (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
 - c. the (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) meeting invitation on social media and School posters in (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
8. For each report/complaint in response to Requests #6 and #7:
 - a. the name(s) and title(s) of the individual(s) to whom the complaint/report was made, the date of the complaint/report, and the date of the incident;
 - b. a detailed description of the complaint processing procedures employed to resolve the report/complaint;
 - c. the length of the investigative process;
 - d. the name(s) and title(s) of the individual(s) involved in the handling of the report/complaint;
 - e. all actions the District took in response to the report/complaint, including whether there was police involvement;
 - f. the District’s final determination regarding the report/complaint;
 - g. any corrective action taken, including discipline and/or supportive measures; and
 - h. any notice of the findings provided to the complainant.
9. All documentation related to any and/or all complaints/reports identified in response to Requests #6 and #7, including but not limited to emails and other forms of correspondence, internal and external memoranda, investigative reports, witness statements, logs, forms, meeting minutes, District communications sent to students, student organizations, staff, alumni, applicants, and the public, personnel file documents, disciplinary documents, supportive measures provided, and notes generated for each complaint.

10. To the extent not covered by any request above, copies of any email(s) and/or social media post(s) received by the District regarding incidents of possible discrimination or harassment based on national origin, including shared ancestry, and copies of all written or electronic notices or correspondence the District issued regarding antisemitic or hate incidents against Jewish and/or Israeli students, including but not limited to any communications sent by the District to students, student organizations, alumni, applicants, and the public in (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) or anytime thereafter.
11. Any additional information that the District believes might be helpful to OCR’s investigation of the issue opened for investigation.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. In addition to the information requested above, OCR may need to request additional information and interview relevant personnel. If an on-site visit is necessary, we will work to schedule a mutually convenient time for the visit. If you have any questions, please contact me at (312) 730-1632 or Marcela.Sanchez@ed.gov or Sunita Kini-Tandon at Sunita.Kini-Tandon@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

Marcela Sanchez-Aguilar
Supervisory Attorney

Enclosure