

From: OCR Dallas Intake
Sent: Wed, 20 Dec 2023 16:05:59 +0000
To: Bringas, Lori
Cc: OCR Dallas Intake; McGhee, Gregory; Laws-Jackson, Jann; Gonzales, Terri; Naqvi, Kulsoom; OCR Dallas; Jackson, Tina
Subject: RE: New Complaint

Thank you, Lori! We'll be sure to add it to the chart today.

Courtney

From: Bringas, Lori <Lori.Bringas@ed.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:02 PM
To: OCR Dallas Intake <OCRDallasIntake@ed.gov>
Cc: McGhee, Gregory <Gregory.McGhee@ed.gov>; Laws-Jackson, Jann <Jann.Laws-Jackson@ed.gov>; Gonzales, Terri <Terri.Gonzales@ed.gov>; Naqvi, Kulsoom <Kulsoom.Naqvi@ed.gov>
Subject: New Complaint

Good afternoon, Dallas Intake! Please process the correspondence below as a new complaint. Thank you!

From: Luz Lopez <luz.lopez@splcenter.org>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:13 AM
To: Naqvi, Kulsoom <Kulsoom.Naqvi@ed.gov>
Cc: Jaclyn Cole <Jaclyn.cole@splcenter.org>; Lauren A. Winkler <lauren.winkler@splcenter.org>; Ashley Dalton <ashley.dalton@splcenter.org>
Subject: FW: Concerns Involving Families of (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); at (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); School, Jefferson Parish Public School District

You don't often get email from luz.lopez@splcenter.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning Ms. Naqvi,

I hope that this email finds you well. I wanted to share the below email that we sent this morning to the Jefferson Parish Public School District on behalf of a few (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); families whose children attend (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); School. One of the parents, (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); may be willing to complete an OCR Consent Form, should the school fail to address the family's concerns.

Best,

Luz



Luz Lopez ella/she
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From: Luz Lopez
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:08 AM
To: ajit.petthe@jpschools.org; superintendent@jpschools.org; ralph.brandtjr@jpschools.org
Cc: Rana Ottallah <ranaottallah@yahoo.com>; Jaclyn Cole <Jaclyn.cole@splcenter.org>
Subject: Concerns Involving Families of (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); [redacted] at (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); [redacted] School, Jefferson Parish Public School District

Dear Mr. Pathe, Dr. Gray, and School Board President Brandt:

I write to express our deep concern related to a few incidents of national origin discrimination that have recently occurred at (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted], a school that is part of the Jefferson Parish Public School District ("JPPSD"), and which serves a (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted]. Yesterday, we learned that a parent at (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted]

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted]

Unfortunately, this is one of at least (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); [redacted] where (b)(6) [redacted] staff has (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted].

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted] Recently, students of (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted]

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted]

The (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted] reports that these recent developments show a marked change in the treatment of the (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted]. The families note that this change in the (b)(6); [redacted] staff treatment of (b)(6); [redacted] families and children happened after the attacks on Gaza started.

As you know, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance, including public schools like (b)(6) and all other JPPSD schools, from discriminating against students and their families based on race, color, and national origin. (b)(6); and other families that have bravely shared their experiences, are concerned that the number of incidents that single out children of (b)(6); national origin may be part of a pattern and practice of national origin discrimination at Solis, a school where approximately (b)(6); of its students are of (b)(6); origin.

I am sure that (b)(6) and JPPSD are committed to compliance with Title VI's requirements against national origin discrimination, and will ensure that this potentially discriminatory conduct will immediately cease. (b)(6); families have shared how (b)(6); has, in the past, been a beacon of hope and belonging for its families and students of (b)(6); origin. These families demand that (b)(6); and JPPS comply with federal antidiscrimination laws, immediately respond to their concerns, and ensure that all children at (b)(6); can thrive and learn in a welcoming environment. I have shared with community leaders that SPLC will help (b)(6); families explore other avenues of redress, should JPPSD fail to address their concerns. The families and I look forward to your prompt response.

Best,



Luz Lopez ella/she
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

REGION VI
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS

Renaissance Tower
1201 Elm Street, Suite 1000
Dallas, TX 75270

February 13, 2024

Dr. James Gray, Superintendent
Jefferson Parish Schools
Sent via email only to: superintendent@jpschools.org

Re: OCR Complaint No. 06241307
Jefferson Parish Schools

Dear Dr. Gray:

On December 20, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received the above-referenced complaint filed against Jefferson Parish Schools (District), in Harvey, Louisiana. The complaint alleged the District discriminated against a student on the basis of national origin (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(5); (b)(7)(A)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(5); (b)(7)(A) The complaint further alleged that the District discriminated against students on the basis of national origin (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(5); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(5); (b)(7)(A)

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, the District is subject to these laws. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on our website at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

OCR will investigate the following legal issue:

- Whether the District discriminated against students on the basis of their national origin (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(5); (b)(7)(A) in violation of Title VI.

Please note that opening an investigation does not imply that OCR has made a determination on the merits of the complaint. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral factfinder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the Complainant, the District, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and fully responds to the allegation in accordance with the provisions of the Case Processing Manual (CPM).

Our goal is the prompt, appropriate resolution of the complaint. While we are proceeding with an investigation, there are other approaches that can achieve this goal. In particular, please note the

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

section of the CPM on resolution of a complaint prior to the conclusion of an investigation. If the District expresses an interest in resolving the complaint and OCR determines that resolution of the complaint prior to the completion of the investigation is appropriate, OCR may attempt to negotiate an agreement with the District pursuant to Section 302 of OCR's CPM.

Attached is a request for data necessary to investigate this complaint. The Department's regulation implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, at 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(c) gives OCR the authority to request this information. Please note that OCR has the right of access to records that are necessary for OCR's investigation, even if those records contain names or other personally identifiable information. See 20 U.S.C. §§ 1232g(b)(1) and 1232g(b)(3) regarding the applicable provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; see also 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(c) and 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(3)(iii).

OCR requests that the District submit this information within 21 calendar days of the date of this letter (i.e., by **March 5, 2024**). We prefer that you submit information electronically, if feasible. If any item in our request is unclear, or if you experience any difficulty complying with this request, please contact us at the telephone number(s) provided below prior to the expiration of the 21-day period. Please be aware that OCR may need to make additional requests for information in the future. If OCR needs to conduct an on-site investigation, we will notify you in advance.

Please be advised that the District must not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against an individual because that individual asserts a right or privilege under a law enforced by OCR or files a complaint, testifies, or participates in an OCR proceeding. If this happens, the individual may file a retaliation complaint with OCR.

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 personally identifiable information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if released, to the extent provided by law.

I am the lead investigator assigned to the complaint and will serve as the contact person during the course of OCR's investigation and resolution process. If you have any questions or concerns about the complaint, you may contact me directly at 202-987-1542 or at dana.garrett@ed.gov. You may also contact Adriane Martin, Team Leader, at 214-661-9678 or adriane.martin@ed.gov. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

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

For Dana Garrett
Senior Investigator
OCR Dallas Office