



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

August 13, 2021

Dear Superintendent:

I write to inform you that the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) will administer a 2021–22 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC), marking the first time that OCR has conducted a CRDC, including all public-school districts and their schools, two school years in a row—2020–21 and 2021–22. As in previous collections, the 2021–22 CRDC survey will be available for public comment in the coming months.

As educators, you and your teams have tackled the impacts of the pandemic with perseverance and determination, taking unprecedented actions to ensure that students continued their education as COVID-19 spread across the country, forcing many school closures, and exacting a terrible toll on students, families, and communities. All of us at the Department are grateful for your leadership.

The significant changes in our educational landscape, along with the substantially increased resources available to schools to meet the needs of your students, educators, and staff, make this year's data collection all the more important. In addition, conducting the CRDC for the 2021–22 academic year will put the survey back on its regular cycle, after the pandemic-related postponement of the 2019–20 CRDC. These are the reasons for conducting the collection two years in a row, rather than biennially as has occurred in the past.

As you know, the CRDC presents an invaluable opportunity to better understand the experiences of students across the nation. Its data informs decisions regarding additional resources that schools, educators, and students need to succeed. It also assists OCR in meeting its mission to ensure schools and school districts are complying with civil rights laws.

As always, the Department has robust resources to support you and your teams in preparing for and completing this collection, as well as your submission of civil rights data from the 2020–21 school year. We are taking additional steps to facilitate your work, and we welcome your suggestions for innovations to further assist you in capturing this crucial data. I encourage you to contact the CRDC and its Partner Support Center (Center) with any questions or for technical assistance, via email (crdc@aemcorp.com) or by phone (855-255-6901). The Center is staffed with experts who are available to support you in fulfilling this important responsibility. For CRDC updates and to access survey forms, please visit the CRDC Resource Center website (<https://crdc.communities.ed.gov/#program>).

Please begin now to take the necessary steps to prepare for the 2021–22 CRDC. OCR anticipates having the information collection package for the 2021–22 CRDC, which includes the proposed data elements, posted on <https://www.regulations.gov> for public comment in the coming months.

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202-1100
www.ed.gov

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

OCR is grateful for the critical work that you and the many school administrators, teachers, specialists, and support staff in your district do to ensure that all students have equal access to education, free from discrimination. This work, including your contributions to the CRDC will help us learn about this most unusual and difficult period of time, is profoundly important.

Thank you for your continued commitment to educating our students and ensuring educational equity and opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Suzanne B. Goldberg". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Suzanne B. Goldberg
Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights