

McLeod, Mary Beth

From: OCR
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 4:31 PM
To: OCR San Francisco
Cc: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: Student (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) in LA -Continuously Exhibiting Discriminatory, Harassing, Intimidating, Islamophobic Behavior both On and Off Campus with no Accountability.
Attachments: Video.mov

Dear OCR San Francisco,

The complaint below is being forwarded to your office for review and appropriate handling.

Thank you,

OPEN Center Customer Service Team
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education

From: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 7:25 PM
To: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) OCR <OCR@ed.gov>
Cc: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Student (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) in LA -Continuously Exhibiting Discriminatory, Harassing, Intimidating, Islamophobic Behavior both On and Off Campus with no Accountability.

[You don't often get email from (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

Over the past year, Muslim students have been targeted by Jewish student (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) at (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) School in Los Angeles. A public (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) school in within the Los Angeles Unified School District. (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) communicated (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) fear, the Muslim students fears and concerns and the parents fears to the

school administrators with no success. (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) are being protected at all cost because this school is located in (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) area. However, this school is also located to (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and is near a (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C). Preferential treatment should not be displayed in an academic environment.

Muslim students from (b)(6); grade to (b)(6); grade, male and female, have reported to parents and school administration about being subjected to death threats as (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) freely yelling "all Palestinians must die", to Palestinian students and Muslim students. These students are allowed to walk around campus with their flags, but the Muslim and Palestinian kids are told they cannot as it will cause a fight. These same (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) has followed students through the (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) while they were heading (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) intimidating them and threatening to beat up the Muslim kids. These (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) followed a (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and she reported feeling threatened. (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) are also engaging in cyber bullying, and spewing hate filled rhetoric online and in ppl social media.

Several students and parents have complained to the school Admin including the Principal and (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and there has been no consequences for the perpetrators. Instead school admin has swept it under the rug so that (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C). The school admin has at no point reached out to the concerned parents to provide (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) an update as to how they plan on addressing (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and keeping (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) safe. They have allowed an environment of Islamophobia to breed and thrive with announcing the (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C). The Principal announced (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

Students have shared that teachers are creating their own presentations to discuss the war without proper oversight which is continuing to foster an environment of Islamophobia and hatred towards Palestinians.

Over the weekend a (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) at the school was (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) spewing hateful rhetoric at a (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C). None of these students are being held responsible for their behavior which goes against school policy. Please help (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) children are fearful of going to school.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

REGION IX
CALIFORNIA

50 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
MAIL BOX 1200, ROOM 1545
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

May 24, 2024

Binh Nguyen
Compliance Officer
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 18th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

By email only to: bqn0828@lausd.net

Re: Los Angeles Unified School District - OCR Case Number 09-24-1520

Dear Binh Nguyen:

On April 30, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education (the Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received a complaint against Los Angeles Unified School District (the District). The complaint alleges that the District discriminated against students at [REDACTED] School (the School) on the basis of national origin (shared Muslim and Palestinian ancestry) when the School's [REDACTED] administrators failed to respond promptly or effectively to the students' and their parents' reports that Jewish students have called Muslim and Palestinian students "terrorists," called for the death of Palestinians, threatened to beat them up, and otherwise harassed or intimidated them during the [REDACTED] school year, and when a District teacher, during a lesson on the [REDACTED] said that "Israel's actions [were] justified" and argued with a Pro-Palestinian student in our about [REDACTED].

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7, and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin (including shared ancestry) under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department, the District is subject to Title VI.

OCR will investigate the following issue: whether the District failed to respond in a manner consistent with the requirements of Title VI to alleged harassment of students at the School based on national origin (shared Muslim and Palestinian ancestry).

Please note that opening an investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to its merits. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the complainant, the recipient, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient as required by OCR's

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

Case Processing Manual (CPM) (July 18, 2022). Please open this link for additional information about OCR's Complaint Processing Procedures. OCR also would like to make you aware that individuals who file complaints with OCR may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

To reach an efficient and timely resolution of this matter, OCR is providing you an opportunity to present the District's response to these allegations and to submit supporting documentation. Please provide the information described in the attached data request by **June 7, 2024**. OCR has determined that the information itemized in the attached data request is necessary to investigate the allegations. The regulations implementing Title VI, at 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.6(b) and (c), require that a recipient of federal financial assistance make available to OCR information that may be pertinent to reaching a compliance determination. Pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(c) and 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(3)(iii), of the regulations 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 will take all proper precautions to protect the identity of any individuals named in the documents.

OCR may close this complaint prior to making formal findings of compliance or non-compliance, provided that the circumstances or information gathered establishes an administrative or other basis for resolution in accordance with the CPM. For example, under Section 201(b) of OCR's CPM, if both parties are interested and if OCR determines that the individual allegations are appropriate for mediation, the parties may voluntarily resolve these complaint allegations through mediation that OCR will facilitate. Note that in such a case OCR does not monitor or enforce the agreement reached between the parties. Please inform OCR if you are interested in resolving this complaint through mediation.

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, OCR will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if released.

On receipt of this letter, please contact Maria Asturias of OCR San Francisco at Maria.Asturias@ed.gov with the name, title, email, and telephone number of the person you designate to be OCR's primary point of contact for the investigation of this complaint. Your cooperation is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact at Maria Asturias.

Sincerely,

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

Monique Raco Fuentes
Team Leader

Enclosures

U.S. Department of Education - Office for Civil Rights, San Francisco
Initial Data Request
Los Angeles Unified School District
OCR Docket Number 09-24-1520

OCR requests that this information reach our office by **June 7, 2024**. If any of the required items are available to the public on the Internet, you may provide the website address. While OCR prefers electronic submissions, you may send documents by any of the following means:

- Email:** Maria Asturias, at Maria.Asturias@ed.gov
- SharePoint:** OCR may create an external sharing site through a browser-based portal in which the requested documents and information may be uploaded. Please contact Maria Asturias, at Maria.Asturias@ed.gov to receive online portal information to upload data.
- Mail:** U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
50 United Nations Plaza
Mailbox 1200; Room 1545
San Francisco, CA 94102
- Fax:** (415) 486-5570

Please do *not* provide the information via an electronic cloud format such as Google Docs. Please also do not include student social security numbers with any submission.

Because email is not reliably secure, please do not email any document that contains personally identifiable or private information without first encrypting this information. You may upload this information using the SharePoint option described above.

For purposes of this data request and all subsequent data requests, “document” means a piece of written, printed, photographic, electronic, videotaped, audiotaped, or other matter.

Please note that this data request is of an ongoing nature, such that if documents relevant to this request are discovered or become available at a later time, we request that the recipient promptly provide such documents to OCR. OCR also requests that you provide any and all documents that are relevant to OCR’s review of this matter, regardless of whether OCR has specifically requested such documents.

Preservation of requested and relevant data and documents: 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 the timeframe specified in these requests and going forward until OCR closes this complaint. Please also ensure that recipient employees preserve other data and documents that are relevant to the allegation(s) under investigation until OCR closes 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 reach a compliance determination.

Please provide the following information for the 2023-2024 academic year:

1. A narrative response to the issue opened for investigation and a copy of any documents or data relied upon in the narrative or supporting the facts stated in the narrative.
2. Indicate if the issue raised in Case Number 09-24-1520 is pending elsewhere. If so, please provide a copy of the complaint filed and indicate its status. If it is not possible to provide a copy of the complaint, please state the allegations raised in the other complaint and the forum in which the complaint was filed (e.g., another federal, state, or local civil rights enforcement agency, through the District's internal grievance procedures, or in state or federal court).
3. A copy of or link to the District's (and the (b)(6); (b)(7)(A);
(b)(7)(C) School's if different than the District's) policies and procedures, and a description of its practices, governing the investigation of and response to reports and complaints of discrimination, including harassment, against students, faculty, and staff on the basis of national origin (shared Muslim/Palestinian ancestry). Please also provide the name(s), job title(s), and contact information of the District and School employees responsible for handling such reports and complaints at the District at each level of the process.
4. An explanation of the means by which the District informs students, faculty, and staff of the policies and procedures referred to in Item. 3. Please provide copies of all materials disseminated to students, faculty, and staff or provide links to the webpages where these materials are posted.
5. For the 2023-2024 academic year, a detailed description of all formal and informal complaints and reports of discrimination, including harassment, of students based on national origin, including shared ancestry (all shared ancestries), at the (b)(6); (b)(7)(A);
(b)(7)(C) School (the School). Please include:
 - a. copies of any complaint(s) or reports received;
 - b. the name(s) and job title(s) of the person(s) to whom the complaint was made or who otherwise became aware of the alleged incident;
 - c. the name and relation to the District of the person making the report/complaint (e.g., student, faculty members, parent/guardian, counsel, member of the public);
 - d. the date of each complaint(s) or report received;
 - e. a detailed description of each complaint/report, including the name(s) of the alleged target(s) of discrimination/harassment and the alleged discriminators/harassers if not evident from the copy of the complaint/report;
 - f. a detailed description of the procedures employed to resolve the complaint or report;
 - g. the length of the process to resolve the complaint or report (e.g., 62 days);
 - h. the name(s) of any students involved in the alleged incident and their national origin (shared ancestry) if known;
 - i. the name(s) and job title(s) of the person(s) responsible for investigating and otherwise resolving the complaint or report;
 - j. the name(s) and relationship to the District of any witnesses interviewed by the School or District;
 - k. all actions taken by the School or District in response to the allegations raised by the complaint or report, including any individual and or School-wide corrective actions, and the date(s) of such action(s);

- l. the School and/or District's final determination, if any, regarding each complaint and report and the date of the determination;
 - m. any notice of the final outcome of the investigation or resolution provided to the reporting party or others with regard to the complaint or report;
 - n. if the School or District did not investigate any particular report/complaint, the reason(s) for not investigating, and the name(s) and job title(s) of the person(s) who made the decision; and
 - o. copies of any other documentation related to each complaint or report. including but not limited to, interview or other notes, emails, investigative reports, internal and external memoranda, witness statements, meeting minutes, correspondence, logs, forms, record of supportive measures and/or remedies offered and provided, and hearing transcripts generated by the District offices.
6. State whether the School conducts focus groups, other meetings, or trainings and/or holds informational sessions with parents, students and/or staff regarding students' rights under Title VI, how to report possible violations of Title VI, and/or the School obligation to respond to Title VI complaints. If so, provide the dates of such events, a description of the attendees, and any materials presented and/or distributed.
 7. A detailed description of any training regarding discrimination, including harassment, based on national origin (shared Muslim and Palestinian ancestry) provided to District and/or School staff responsible for responding to complaints based on national origin, shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics. For each such training provide the dates of such training, a description of the training, a description of the training participants, and copies of any materials distributed during the training.
 8. The name, job title, address, telephone number, fax number, and email address of the District's contact person for this complaint.
 9. Any other information the District believes will assist OCR in its investigation.