
Office for Civil Rights Discrimination Complaint Form: Submission #738603

1. Enter information about yourself

First Name: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A);

Last Name: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A);

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

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

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

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

Best Time to Call You: Day

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

Alternative Phone Number: {Empty}

Your Email Address: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

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

Contact's Name (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

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

Relationship to you: SISTER

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: {Empty}

Evening Phone Number: {Empty}

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); (b)(7)(C)

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

4. What institution discriminated?

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

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

City: Seekonk

State: Massachusetts

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

School or department involved: SEEKONK DISTRICT

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? No

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? race or color, national origin

In the space provided below please describe each discriminatory action separately. For each action, you need to provide the following information: My daughter has been discriminated against her religion, her race and the school failed to do anything about it. My daughters religion and race were completely violated. the school refuse to provide a safe place where she can get her Education in peace.

kids in the classroom asking her (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) then laughing, teacher not doing anything about it.

students keeps calling her (b)(6); (b)(7)(A) every second than telling her prove it to us if your not.

students keeps picking on her for her religion and (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) incident (students racially profiled, religiously profiled, (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

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

emailed Vice principle , went the school and met with vice principle and (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

School did nothing about it No safety (b)(6); (b)(7)(A) measurement was put in place.

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

incident) there was a (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) incident where (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and other staff members were involved. Witness, as well yelling and screaming at (b)(6); (b)(7)(A) "stating you don't want any of this". while banging on the table.

No safety plan put in place. Nothing done about it

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

Daughter came home with (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) shaking crying, getting texts,

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

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

(afterschool) called the school with (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and told her, the video is disturbing and a violation of my religion because my daughter's (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) respond was nothing can be done about it.

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

and assured me there will be a safety plan in place. And this will

never happen again

No safety plan was put in place (communicated or written) nothing done about it

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) speaks, (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) asks her can you please ask them to stop (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and making fun of me. And my (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) she gets the same respond nothing can be done.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) incident again where (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) again (daughter (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

School (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) my daughter never got in trouble a day in her life. Never even had dentation, the sweetest soul any person will ever meet. When (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) they failed to protect her

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

yes or no Yes

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: (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) - 00:00

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? i would like the institution to address the discrimination issue fairly and take steps to ensure it doesn't happen again. It's crucial for my daughter to return to a safe school environment where she can focus on her education without any concerns or discrimination. Ensuring her safety and well-being should be the top priority. I hope the institution takes immediate action to address the situation and create a supportive atmosphere for her.

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

I am interested in participating in early mediation: Yes



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

9TH FLOOR, 5 POST OFFICE SQUARE
BOSTON, MA 02109-3921

REGION I

CONNECTICUT
MAINE
MASSACHUSETTS
NEW HAMPSHIRE
RHODE ISLAND
VERMONT

March 12, 2024

Superintendent Rebecca Kidwell
By email: kidwellr@seekonkschools.org

Re: Complaint No. 01-24-1216
Seekonk Public Schools

Dear Superintendent Kidwell:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has opened for investigation the above-referenced complaint filed against Seekonk Public Schools (District). The Complainant alleges that the District discriminated against her daughter (Student) on the basis of race and/or national origin (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) by failing to respond appropriately to harassment of the Student by her peers during the (b)(6); school year, and by (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) school year.

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. Section 2000d *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. Because the District receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education, OCR has jurisdiction over it pursuant to Title VI.

OCR is opening the following issues for investigation:

1. Whether the District failed to respond to alleged harassment of the Student on the basis of race and/or national origin (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) in a manner consistent with the requirements of Title VI.
2. Whether the District discriminated against the Student based on race and/or national origin (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) when the District (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) school year, in violation of Title VI.

Please note that opening an investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination on the merits of the complaint. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the Complainant, the University, 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 OCR's Case Processing Manual (available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocrspm.pdf>). Please also note that complainants

may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation. Information on OCR’s complaint processing procedures, including mediation, is available at [How the Office for Civil Rights Handles Complaints](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaints-how.html) (available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaints-how.html>).

Please also note the section 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 the *Case Processing Manual*.

Attached is a request for data necessary to investigate this complaint. OCR requests that the District submit this information within 15 calendar days of the date of this letter. 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 as provided below prior to the expiration of the 15-day period. Please be aware that OCR may need to make additional requests for information in the future. If OCR needs to conduct witness interviews and/or an on-site investigation, we will notify you in advance. Please ensure that any District employees review “[Information for Persons Participating in OCR Investigations](#),” prior to discussing this matter with OCR.

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, 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, 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.

If you have any questions, you may contact Timothy Cochrane at (617) 289-0071 or by email at Timothy.Cochrane@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Tokufumi Noda
Compliance Team Leader
OCR Boston Office

Data Request
OCR Complaint No. 01-24-1216
Seekonk Public Schools (District)

[REDACTED] (School)

[REDACTED] (Complainant)

[REDACTED] (Student)

Please submit the following information to Timothy Cochrane within 15 calendar days of the date of this letter. We prefer that you submit information electronically, if feasible. If you are sending a large electronic file, please contact OCR for directions on how to upload the file to OCR's secure file-sharing platform. Additionally, if any of the information is available online, you may provide the URL in lieu of hard copy documents. Please note that OCR is not requesting, and the District should not provide, any social security numbers in response to this data request. You can send the information to the mailing address on the enclosed letter, fax it to (617) 289-0150, or email it to Timothy.Cochrane@ed.gov. If any item in our request is unclear, or if you experience any difficulty complying with this request, please contact us prior to the expiration of the 15-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.

Preservation of requested and relevant data and documents: OCR may request supplemental data and documents that are relevant to the allegation(s) 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 the time-frame 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(s) under investigation until OCR closes this case.

Please provide the following for the [REDACTED] school year, unless otherwise noted:

1. The name, title, and contact information of the District's:
 - a. Contact person for this complaint;
 - b. Person authorized to resolve this complaint; and
 - c. Person responsible for responding to Title VI complaints.
2. A copy of the District's policies and procedures and/or a description of the District's practices and procedures for responding to complaints/reports of discrimination or harassment on the basis of national origin, including shared ancestry, race, or color during the [REDACTED] school year.
3. A copy of any District and School policies (formal or informal), procedures, manuals, memos, forms, guidance, and similar documents governing:
 - a. Student discipline;
 - b. The role of school police, including, but not limited to, any memoranda of understanding with outside law enforcement entity/ies;
 - c. School police training and curriculum;

- d. Permitting the presence of law enforcement, emergency personnel, medical care providers, and/or crisis intervention and response teams on school grounds; and
 - e. Discipline polices or matrices that reference police referrals.
4. For the (b)(6); [redacted] and (b)(6); [redacted] school years, copies of all formal and informal reports/complaints, including records of oral reports/complaints, at the School concerning alleged discrimination or harassment based on race, color, and/or national origin, including shared ancestry, and the District’s response to those reports/complaints, including correspondence, internal and external memoranda, investigative reports, witness statements, logs, forms, meeting minutes and notes generated for each complaint/report. This request includes, but is not limited to, all reports/complaints made by or on behalf of the Student.

For each complaint/report, provide:

- a. the name(s) and title(s) of the individual(s) to whom the complaint/report was made, and the date of the complaint/report;
- b. a detailed description of the complaint processing procedures employed to resolve the complaint/report;
- c. the name(s), title(s), and role(s) of the individual(s) involved in responding to the complaint/report on behalf of the District;
- d. all actions the District took in response to the complaint/report;
- e. the District’s final determination regarding the complaint/report;
- f. any corrective action taken;
- g. the length of the process; and
- h. any notice of the findings provided to the parties.

Note: Please include all complaints where the allegations included harassment based on race, color, and/or national origin, including shared ancestry, regardless of whether the complaint was processed under the District’s procedures for responding to complaints of discrimination or under procedures for responding to bullying incidents generally.

5. Documentation of any efforts by the District to prevent or address discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, including shared ancestry, at the District. Include a detailed description of any training provided to District staff and students. For each such training, provide the date of the training, the location of the training, a description of the training, a description of the attendees, and copies of any materials presented and/or distributed during the training.
6. The names and titles of all persons who in any way were involved in responding to an incident involving the Student on or about (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted] including those who (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); (b)(7)(C) [redacted]
7. The Student’s disciplinary records, including (but not limited to):
- a. All logs, reports, correspondence, communications, or other documents (formal or informal) related to disciplinary referrals for the Student whether or not it resulted in a sanction;

- b. Any investigative records;
 - c. The decision whether to discipline the student; and
 - d. Any discipline received (e.g., suspensions, expulsions, detention, etc.), including the length of the sanction.
8. To the extent not otherwise addressed by Data Request No. 7, documentation of all incidents involving the Student, including physical altercations, harassment, bullying, or other incidents. For each incident or report, please include documentation that indicates:
- a. Students who were involved in the incident;
 - b. Grade of students involved;
 - c. Race and national origin of students involved;
 - d. Date of incident;
 - e. Alleged offense or written description of incident, reports, etc.;
 - f. The District's responsive action; and
 - g. Disciplinary or responsive measures taken.
9. For the (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); and (b)(6); (b)(7)(A); school years, a list of all disciplinary referrals at the School, regardless of whether they involved the Student, of physical altercations, physical contact/harm, fighting, or assault. For each individual, please specify:
- h. Name of student or unique student identifier;
 - i. Grade;
 - j. Race and national origin;
 - k. Date of incident;
 - l. Alleged offense;
 - m. Discipline imposed (e.g., in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, detention, etc.);
 - n. Number of days of sanction imposed for suspensions and expulsions; and
 - o. Whether the police were called or involved in responding to the incident.

For Data Request No. 9, please also note that OCR may request additional documentation related to the listed requests; therefore, we request that the District preserve the discipline records for the students referenced above, including copies of any disciplinary reports, notes, decisions, and other documentation related to disciplinary referrals pending OCR's resolution of this matter.

10. To the extent not otherwise provided in response to the above, any correspondence between the Complainant and District staff, and any internal correspondence among District staff, pertinent to the issues raised in this complaint. "Correspondence" includes letters, memoranda, emails, text messages, records/notes of telephone conversations, and records/notes of in-person meetings.
11. The names and titles of all persons who assisted in the preparation of these data responses.
12. You are invited, but not required, to provide a narrative response to the issues opened for investigation.

13. Any other information that the District believes will be helpful to OCR or relevant in this investigation.