



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

February 14, 2023

United States Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-1100
Via Email: OCR@ed.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a federal civil rights complaint pursuant to the U.S. Department of Education's (Department) Office for Civil Rights' (OCR) discrimination complaint resolution procedures.

Parents Defending Education (PDE) brings this complaint against Olympia School District in Olympia, Washington for discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance in violation of both Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*, and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

PDE makes this complaint as an interested third-party organization that opposes racial discrimination and political indoctrination in America's schools. Olympia School District is using taxpayer funding to offer weekly affinity group programming during school hours for students of specific races that are not open to all students. Attached to this complaint is supporting evidence in the form of an email from the Principal of Olympia Centennial Elementary School to a parent, which states affinity groups are "limited to students who identify as BIPOC"¹ (Exhibit A).

According to Exhibit A, students are separated based on race as early as 4th grade. The principal emphasizes the importance of creating a 4th grade BIPOC group "safe space" because "this space allows them to hang out, check in and possibly talk about their experiences as a student in the minority as they build a community" (Ex. A at 3).

Principal Ritter notes the systematic nature of the affinity groups, "many of our elementary schools and all of our secondary schools have a student group similar to this" (Ex. A at 3).

Exhibit A affirms not all students would be welcome in the 4th and 5th grade BIPOC affinity groups and that this exclusion is solely based on an individual's race (Ex. A at 3).

As the Department of Education is no doubt aware, segregation on the basis of race raises concerns that Olympia School District has received federal funds in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which

¹ Rantz, Jason. "Rantz: Elementary school bans white students from 'safe space' club." February 5, 2023. Accessed February 6, 2023. <https://mynorthwest.com/3796233/rantz-elementary-school-bans-white-students-from-safe-space-club/>



declares that “no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

In addition, Section 1 of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution asserts that “No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” On these grounds, the Supreme Court held in 1954 that racial segregation of students is unconstitutional. *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

A September 29, 2015 decision from the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights during the Obama Administration is directly on point: in 2015, following “the police actions involving African American victims in Ferguson and New York and subsequent events,” Oak Park & River Forest High School District 200 held a “Black Lives Matter” assembly during Black History Month. The assembly was convened “for African American students only” because the district wanted “to provide a comfortable forum for black students to express their frustrations.” Certain students “who self-identified as white were directed by District officials not to participate in the event as this assembly was designed for students who self-identify as black.” In the letter sent on September 29, 2015 (OCR Docket #05-15-1180), OCR found that the district violated the Equal Protection Clause and Title VI because the district’s actions could not withstand strict scrutiny. Specifically, the district failed to “assess fully whether there were workable race-neutral alternatives” and “did not conduct a flexible and individualized review of potential participants.” In a Resolution Agreement with OCR, the district agreed that its programs and activities would be “open to all students . . . regardless of their race” and to adopt policies and training to ensure the district’s compliance. OCR imposed these requirements even though the district had promised “not to hold such events in the future.”

Accordingly, we ask that the Department promptly investigate the allegations in this complaint, act swiftly to remedy unlawful policies and practices, and order appropriate relief.

Thank you for your prompt assistance with this request for investigation and resolution.
Please contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caroline Moore".

Caroline Moore
Vice President
Parents Defending Education

Enc. Exhibit A



EXHIBIT A



KTTH OPINION

Rantz: Elementary school bans white students from 'safe space' club

Feb 5, 2023, 6:00 PM




Centennial Elementary in Olympia established a 5th-grade BIPOC ("Black, Indigenous, People of Color") student group that the principal says excludes white students, according to a screenshot of an email shared with the Jason Rantz Show on KTTH. (Olympia School District)



Ex. A at 1

Rantz: Elementary school bans... x +

https://mynorthwest.com/3796233/rantz-elementary-school-bans-white-students-from-safe-space-club/ 

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BY JASON RANTZ
The Jason Rantz Show, 3pm-7pm on KTTH

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A local elementary school has a student club that excludes students based on their race, according to a parent.

Centennial Elementary in Olympia established a 5th-grade BIPOC ("Black, Indigenous, People of Color") student group that the principal says excludes white students, according to a screenshot of an email shared with the Jason Rantz Show on KTTH. The email, which the district has confirmed is real, shows principal [REDACTED] admitting the "group is limited to students who identify as BIPOC." The club meets once a week during their lunch period, and the school is reportedly in the early stages for an additional "BIPOC-only" student group for 4th graders.



23 Figures With A Deadly Sense Of Humor
kathington.com

[REDACTED] also explains that "this space allows them [BIPOC students] to hang out, check in and possibly talk about their experiences as a student in the minority as they build community, connections and confidence. It is primarily a safe space for them." A group for so-called allies may be established, as well.

[Rantz: State releasing sex predators to unsecured housing by school bus stop](#)

Why can't the Left acknowledge discrimination is worse?

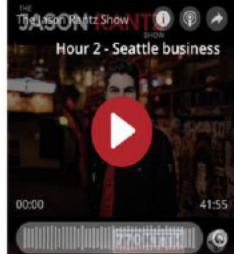
#1 Volume Ford Store in Western Washington
*According to Total New Ford Retail Sales Report for 2022

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- Hour 3 - The left doesn't want y... 42:44
The Monologue: People are reali... Feb 2

Ex. A at 2

Rantz: Elementary school bans x +

https://mynorthwest.com/3796233/rantz-elementary-school-bans-white-students-from-safe-space-club/ Update

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Rantz: State releasing sex predators to unsecured housing by school bus stop

Why can't the Left acknowledge discrimination is wrong?

Good Morning --

Many of our elementary schools and all of our secondary schools have a student group similar to this. We have a 5th grade BIPOC student group that meets weekly during their lunch time. Our 4th grade BIPOC group is in the early planning stages and will meet twice a month. At this time, this group is limited to students who identify as BIPOC. For these students, this space allows them to hang out, check in and possibly talk about their experiences as a student in the minority as they build community, connections and confidence. It is primarily a safe space for them.

We are exploring the possibility and interest in adding a student ally club as a few students are interested.

Principal
Centennial Elementary School

While "affinity groups" have been established at schools nationwide at the behest of the equity movement, they're usually described in ways that make it clear white people aren't wanted without expressly telling them they can't join. That would be illegal discrimination. But in 2023, discrimination is hip in left-wing circles.

A spokesperson for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction says the state does not provide districts guidance on affinity groups. But attorney [REDACTED] P.S. says this discrimination is legally questionable. He cites Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. He also notes that the district's anti-discrimination policy bars discrimination based on race, color, or national origin "for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program."

What's Trending: Chinese balloon... Feb 3
Hour 3 - The left doesn't want y... 42:44
The Monologue: People are real... Feb 2
Hour 2 - Tenino residents stand... 42:22
What's Trending: A Monroe Scho... Feb 2

Ex. A at 3



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"The fact that this is occurring in an elementary school makes it even more problematic from a legal perspective. The age of the students, coupled with the principal's email re: this 'club', makes it apparent that this is not a primarily student-led decision but rather one being generated and defended by the school itself," [REDACTED] noted to the Jason Rantz Show. "She describes it as being in the 'early planning stages' which does not suggest 9-10 year olds are driving the program. The school district is committing in writing to enforce a race-based exclusion. No promise of a potentially forthcoming 'ally' club can justify this."

A spokesperson for the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction explained to the Jason Rantz Show on KTTH that if a student is being discriminated against, they "could file a complaint and we would be likely to provide technical assistance to the school to clarify that they should not exclude students who wish to participate."



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A spokesperson for the Olympia School District said she's been working on a statement for days but has yet to provide one. But she did confirm the authenticity of the email, which was first posted on [Facebook](#) by [REDACTED]

Needlessly divisive

Ex. A at 4

Rantz Elementary school ban X +

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Needlessly divisive

Before the Radical Left normalized anti-white racism, the societal expectation was that no one be discriminated against based on race, ethnicity or skin color. But in a post-Black Lives Matter world, all white people are deemed oppressors. Since progressives believe all whites have privileges due to systemic racism, it's okay to discriminate against them. It's a form of karmic retribution to them. But in addition to being illegal, it's dangerous and divisive.

[REDACTED] explained in the email that she wanted to set up a group for student allies because some students had asked. That should have been the clue to [REDACTED] that she shouldn't be kicking white students out of the BIPOC student group. Isn't the point to create harmony amongst children regardless of their race?



Shiloh Jolie-Pitt After Her Transition
clairandjane.com

The very nature of these groups tells "BIPOC" kids that their white classmates can't be trusted and aren't worth feeling comfortable around. It's also telling white students that "BIPOC" kids are so different than they are, that they should be segregated to another part of the school. How does this create healthy relationships?

Rantz: Elementary school bans white students from safe-space club

https://mynorthwest.com/3796233/rantz-elementary-school-bans-white-students-from-safe-space-club/

Update

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The very nature of these groups tells "BIPOC" kids that their white classmates can't be trusted and aren't worth feeling comfortable around. It's also telling white students that "BIPOC" kids are so different than they are, that they should be segregated to another part of the school. How does this create healthy relationships?

[Rantz: WA DOH censored critics of 'transmasculine people with a cervix' ad](#)

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