



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THE WANAMAKER BUILDING, SUITE 515
100 PENN SQUARE EAST
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107-3323

REGION III
DELAWARE
KENTUCKY
MARYLAND
PENNSYLVANIA
WEST VIRGINIA

May 1, 2023

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE REFER TO: 03231211

Caroline Moore
Vice President
Parents Defending Education
By Email Only: caroline@defendinged.org

Dear Ms. Moore:

On March 14, 2023, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education has received your complaint against Lower Merion School District (the District), in Pennsylvania. You allege that the District discriminates against students on the basis of sex because it offers *Girls + STEM Night*, which was open only to girls and gender diverse students.

OCR also enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (Title IX), which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex by recipients of Federal financial assistance. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department, the District is subject to Title IX and its implementing regulations. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on our website at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

OCR will investigate this complaint because OCR has jurisdiction and the allegation was filed timely. Please note that opening the complaints for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination on the merits of the complaints. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from you, the University, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and fully responds to the allegations in accordance with the provisions of the *Case Processing Manual*, available at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.pdf>.

Please note the section on resolution of a complaint prior to the conclusion of an investigation. If the recipient 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 recipient pursuant to Section 302 of the Case Processing Manual.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Branigan at 215-656-8516 or michael.branigan@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig D. Ginsburg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig D. Ginsburg
Team Leader
Philadelphia Office