



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS  
ONE PETTICOAT LANE  
1010 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 320  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64106

REGION VII  
ARKANSAS  
KANSAS  
MISSOURI  
NEBRASKA  
OKLAHOMA  
SOUTH DAKOTA

November 17, 2023

Sent via email only to: [caroline@defendinged.org](mailto:caroline@defendinged.org)

Caroline Moore  
Parents Defending Education  
4532 Lee Hwy #119  
Arlington VA 22207

Re: Webster Groves School District  
OCR Complaint No. 07231362

Dear Ms. Moore:

On May 18, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received the complaint you filed against Webster Groves School District (District), located in Webster Groves, Missouri, alleging discrimination based on race and sex. Specifically, you alleged the District's Renaissance Girls Group discriminates on the basis of race and sex by excluding applicants who are not female persons of color.

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq., and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

OCR also enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§1681 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination based on sex in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department of Education, the District is subject to Title VI, Title IX, and OCR's jurisdiction. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on our website at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

OCR will investigate the following:

1. whether the District's Renaissance Girls Group discriminates on the basis of race by excluding applicants who are not persons of color, in violation of Title VI and 34 C.F.R. § 100.3; and
2. whether the District's Renaissance Girls Group discriminates on the basis of sex by excluding applicants who are not female, in violation of Title IX and 34 C.F.R. § 106.31.

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

Opening the complaint for 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 you, the District, 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 the *Case Processing Manual*, available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.pdf>. OCR would like to make you aware that individuals, such as yourself, who file complaints with OCR may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

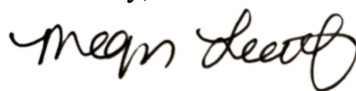
Our goal is the prompt resolution of the complaint. Information on OCR's complaint processing procedures is available at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/complaints-how.html>. Please note the section on resolution of a complaint prior to the conclusion of an investigation. If the recipient expresses an interest 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 *Case Processing Manual* Section 302. Additionally, OCR offers, when appropriate, a mediation process to facilitate the voluntary resolution of complaints by the parties.

The District may 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. Complaints alleging such retaliation may be filed 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, it 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Glenn Grayson, Attorney, at (816) 268-0562 (voice) or (877) 521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or by email at [glenn.grayson@ed.gov](mailto:glenn.grayson@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Levetzow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Levetzow  
Supervisory Attorney