

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

1244 SPEER BLVD., SUITE 310 DENVER, CO 80204-3582 REGION VIII

ARIZONA COLORADO NEW MEXICO UTAH WYOMING

July 26, 2024

Ms. Caroline Moore	
Vice President	
Parents Defending Education	
Sent by email only:	

Re: OCR Case No. 08-24-1511 Summit Re-1 School District

Dear Caroline Moore:

On April 29, 2024, the United States Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) received your complaint against the Summit Re-1 School District (District) alleging discrimination on the basis of race. Specifically, the complaint alleges that the District discriminated on the basis of race by developing a "Consejo de Familias Hispanas" (Group) for students and parents that restricts participation on the basis of race.

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 on the basis of race, color, or national origin by recipients of federal financial assistance from the Department. Because the District receives federal financial assistance from the Department, OCR has jurisdiction over it pursuant to Title VI.

After carefully reviewing the information you provided, OCR determined that it is dismissing your complaint. OCR explains its decision in further detail below.

Under Section 108(f) of OCR's Case Processing Manual (CPM), OCR will dismiss a complaint allegation when the allegation, on its face or as clarified, fails to state a violation of one of the laws or regulations OCR enforces.

You suggest in the complaint that because the invitation to the Group is in Spanish, that membership in the Group is limited to a particular race. The District's publication of materials in languages other than English does not constitute race discrimination. School-related information provided to parents may need to be provided to national origin minority parents in a language that they understand. OCR cannot infer from the evidentiary materials provided in your complaint, which contain no reference to the membership of the Group but instead merely announce the time of the Group's meeting, that the District restricts membership in the Group.

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Rather, OCR notes that publicly available information, <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>, shows that the Group's meetings and membership are open to the public and its meeting times are publicly available.

Based on the information before OCR, OCR cannot infer that membership in the Group is restricted based on race and therefore your complaint, on its face and as clarified, fails to state a violation of one of the laws or regulations OCR enforces. Accordingly, OCR is dismissing this complaint under Section 108(f) of the CPM as of the date of this letter.

This letter sets forth OCR's determination in an individual OCR case. This letter is not a formal statement of OCR policy and should not be relied upon, cited, or construed as such. OCR's formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public. Complainants may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

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 (FOIA), 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, 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 Patrick Alexander, the OCR attorney assigned to this complaint, at 303-844-3473 or <a href="mailto:Patrick.Alexander@ed.gov">Patrick.Alexander@ed.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

Sandra J. Roesti

Sandra J. Roesti Supervisory Attorney