



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

JOHN C. KLUCZYNSKI FEDERAL BUILDING  
230 S. DEARBORN STREET, 37<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

REGION V  
ILLINOIS  
INDIANA  
IOWA  
MINNESOTA  
NORTH DAKOTA  
WISCONSIN

August 5, 2024

Via e-mail only to: [REDACTED]

Caroline Moore  
Vice President  
Parents Defending Education

Re: OCR Case Number 05-24-1284

Dear Caroline Moore:

On February 7, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received the complaint you filed against the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (the Academy) alleging that the Academy discriminates on the basis of race it is Brotherhood Sister Circle (BHSC) affinity group and BHSC retreat.

OCR processes complaints in accordance with its [Case Processing Manual \(CPM\) \(July 18, 2022\)](#). OCR is responsible for enforcing several civil rights statutes that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, and disability by recipients of federal financial assistance from the Department of Education, as well as disability discrimination by certain public entities.

Section 105 OCR's CPM states that OCR must have jurisdiction over the school or institution alleged to have discriminated. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, OCR has jurisdiction over schools and institutions that receive federal financial assistance from the Department of Education. An allegation against a school or institution over which OCR lacks personal jurisdiction is not subject to further processing and will be dismissed pursuant to Section 108(b). Section 108(b) of OCR's CPM states that OCR will dismiss a complaint when it determines that it lacks personal jurisdiction over the entity alleged to have discriminated.

The Academy does not receive federal financial assistance from the Department of Education and therefore, OCR lacks personal jurisdiction to investigate your complaint of race discrimination against the Academy. Accordingly, OCR is dismissing your complaint 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. Individuals who file complaints with OCR may have the right to file a private suit in court regardless of OCR's determination.

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, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

If you have any questions about this letter, you may contact please contact Miguel Figueras, OCR Attorney, by phone at 202-987-1346, or by email at [miguel.figueras@ed.gov](mailto:miguel.figueras@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

*Melissa Katt*

Melissa Katt  
Team Leader