



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

915 2nd AVENUE, ROOM 3310
SEATTLE, WA 98174-1009

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November 26, 2024

Via E-Mail Only: [REDACTED]
Caroline Moore

Re: Olympia School District
OCR Reference Number 10231313

Dear Caroline Moore:

For the reasons discussed below, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is dismissing the above-referenced complaint against Olympia School District. You alleged that the District is discriminating on the bases of race, color, and national origin by offering an affinity group at Centennial Elementary School (CES) that is limited to students who identify as Black, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC).

OCR has the authority to enforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. Section 2000d *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation, at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the bases of race, color and national origin in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance from the Department. The District is a recipient of federal financial assistance from this Department and is required to comply with Title VI.

Under Section 110(d) of OCR's [Case Processing Manual](#), OCR will dismiss an allegation when OCR obtains credible information indicating that the allegation has been resolved, and there is no systemic allegation. (<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.pdf>)

After being notified of the complaint, the District provided information to OCR establishing that the BIPOC affinity group at CES has been opened to all students regardless of race, color, or national origin. The District provided information reflecting that District administrators informed the principal, mentor coordinator, and club advisors at CES that student groups, like the BIPOC affinity group, can operate so long as they are open to all students. Publicly available information confirms that the District sent an e-mail a week after the BIPOC affinity group was announced, and prior to the group's first meeting, stating that it would be open to all students. The District also communicated in writing to families at CES that the affinity group is open to all students regardless of race. The District also provided OCR with a copy of the parent/legal guardian

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permission slip for the BIPOC affinity group which states that the group is open to all students regardless of race or national origin.

Because OCR has obtained credible information indicating that the allegation is currently resolved and has determined that the facts underlying the allegation are no longer present, OCR is dismissing the complaint.

This letter sets forth OCR's final agency determination in an individual OCR case and there is no right to appeal. 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. This letter serves as OCR's final agency determination and there is no right of appeal. You may have the right to file a private suit in court regardless of OCR's determination.

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

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me by telephone at (206) 607-1623 or by e-mail at tania.lopez@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



Tania Lopez
Senior Attorney