



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST., 37th FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60604

REGION V
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
IOWA
MINNESOTA
NORTH DAKOTA
WISCONSIN

March 1, 2024

Sent via email only to: hrc@hrc.org

Kelley Robinson
President, Human Rights Campaign
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20036

Re: Owasso Public Schools
OCR Complaint No. 05-24-1363

Dear Kelley Robinson:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), is opening for investigation the above-referenced complaint that you filed against the Owasso Public Schools (the District). Your complaint alleges that the District discriminated against students by failing to respond appropriately to sex-based harassment, of which it had notice, at Owasso High School during the 2023-2024 school year.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), and its implementing regulations, at 34 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 106, which prohibit discrimination based on sex in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. OCR also enforces Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), 29 U.S.C. Section 794, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. Additionally, OCR enforces Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II), 42 U.S.C. Section 12131 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. Part 35, which prohibit discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities by public entities, including public education systems and institutions, regardless of whether they receive federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. Because the District receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education and is a public entity, OCR has jurisdiction over it pursuant to Title IX, Section 504, and Title II. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on OCR's [website](#).

OCR is opening the following issues for investigation:

1. Whether the District failed to appropriately respond to alleged harassment of students in a manner consistent with the requirements of Title IX.
2. Whether the District failed to appropriately respond to alleged harassment of students in a manner consistent with the requirements of Section 504 and Title II.

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

Please note that 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 complaint in accordance with the provisions of the [Case Processing Manual](#). Please also note that complainants may have a right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

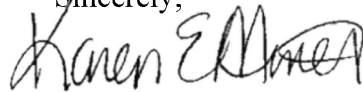
Our goal is the prompt resolution of the complaint. Information on OCR's complaint processing procedures are available [online](#).

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, you may contact Senior Attorney Jason Frazer at (312) 730-1653 or by email at Jason.Frazer@ed.gov, or Senior Attorney Michael O'Donnell at (312) 730-1636 or by email at Michael.ODonnell@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen E. Mines". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" being the most prominent.

Karen E. Mines
Acting Regional Director