



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W.,
WASHINGTON, DC 20202-1475

REGION XI
NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 27, 2012

Jason Langberg, Esq.
Peggy Nicholson, Esq.
Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.
P.O. Box 2101
Durham, NC 27702

Jerri Katzerman, Esq.
Caren Short, Esq.
Southern Poverty Law Center
400 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104

Re: OCR Complaint No. 11-12-1472
Notification Letter

Dear Mr. Langberg, et al.:

This letter is in reference to a complaint you filed with the District of Columbia Office for Civil Rights (OCR), within the U.S. Department of Education (the Department), on June 18, 2012, against the Wake County Public School System (the District) on behalf of limited English proficient (LEP) parents and guardians in the District. Specifically, the complaint alleges that the District discriminates against LEP parents and guardians on the basis of national origin by failing to ensure that they have meaningful access to information that is provided to parents and guardians in English.

OCR is responsible for enforcing certain federal civil rights statutes and regulations, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and its implementing regulation, at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in activities or programs that receive federal financial assistance. The District receives federal financial assistance from the Department and therefore is subject to the provisions of Title VI.

Because OCR has determined that it has jurisdiction and that the allegation was filed timely, OCR is opening the allegation for investigation. Please note that opening the allegation for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to the merits of the complaint. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the complainants, the recipient, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and is dispositive of the allegations in accordance with the provisions of OCR's Case Processing Manual, which is available at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.html>.

*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 be aware that the District may not harass, coerce, intimidate, or discriminate against you because you filed a complaint or participated in the complaint resolution process. If this happens, you may file another complaint alleging such treatment. Also, 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, to the extent provided by law, personal information that, if released, could constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

We look forward to your cooperation during the resolution of this complaint. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sebastian Amar at (202) 453-6023 or Sebastian.Amar@ed.gov or Martha Russo at (214) 661-9622 or Martha.Russo@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



Olabisi L. Okubadejo
Team Leader
District of Columbia Office
Office for Civil Rights