



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THE WANAMAKER BUILDING, SUITE 515
100 PENN SQUARE EAST
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107-3323

REGION III
DELAWARE
KENTUCKY
MARYLAND
PENNSYLVANIA
WEST VIRGINIA

October 20, 2022

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE REFER TO: 03231008

Sent via email only: rting@aclupa.org; vwalczak@aclupa.org

Witold J. Walczak, Legal Director
Richard T. Ting, Staff Attorney
ACLU of Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 23058
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Mr. Ting:

This refers to the complaint you filed with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), against Central Bucks School District. You allege that the District failed to respond appropriately to the harassment of students based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. § 1681, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity operated by a recipient of Federal financial assistance. Title IX also prohibits retaliation. Because the District receives federal financial assistance from the Department and is a public entity, the District is subject to these statutes and their implementing regulations. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on our website at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

OCR will open the complaint for investigation because OCR has jurisdiction over this allegation and it was timely filed. Please note that opening allegations for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination on their merits. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral factfinder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the Complainant, the District, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and fully responds to the allegation in accordance with the provisions of the *Case Processing Manual* (CPM), available at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.pdf>.

Our goal is the prompt, appropriate resolution of the complaint. Information on OCR's complaint processing procedures is available at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/complaints-how.html>. Please note the section on resolution of a complaint prior to the conclusion of an investigation. If the recipient expresses an interest in resolving the complaint and OCR determines that resolution of the complaint prior to the completion of the investigation is appropriate, OCR may attempt to negotiate an agreement with the recipient pursuant to Section 302 of the CPM.

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 advised that the District may not harass, coerce, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual because he or she has filed a complaint or participated in the complaint resolution process. If this happens, the Complainant may file another complaint alleging such treatment.

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 protect personal information to the extent provided by law.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact OCR attorneys Catherine Deneke at (215) 656-5964 or catherine.deneke@ed.gov, or Zachary Marshall at (215) 656-5829 or zachary.j.marshall@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catherine C. Deneke", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Catherine C. Deneke
Supervisory Attorney