



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The Honorable Corrine Brown
United States Congress
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

SEP 3 0 2015

Re: Case No. 04-15-5002
Duval County Public Schools

Dear Congresswoman Brown:

I write to advise you that the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Education (Department) will initiate a compliance review of the Duval County Public Schools (District).

OCR has enforcement responsibilities for federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age by institutions, such as the District, that receive federal financial assistance from the Department, and under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2001. In addition to its responsibility for investigating complaints of discrimination, OCR is required under 34 C.F.R. § 100.7(a) to periodically conduct compliance reviews to ensure that recipient practices are in compliance with the laws that OCR enforces. Compliance reviews are designed to address systemic issues and ensure that violations are readily identified and promptly eliminated.

OCR will conduct this review to evaluate the District's compliance under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin by recipients of financial assistance from the Department. The District receives funds from the Department and, therefore, must comply with Title VI.

This compliance review will examine whether the District is failing to provide African American and Hispanic students with equitable access to quality education, specifically with respect to teacher equity and instructional leadership. The review will examine various factors related to teacher effectiveness, stability of the teacher workforce and teacher qualifications and experience. The review will further examine the effectiveness, stability, qualifications and experience of school leadership as well as access to high quality non-instructional and support staff.

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

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the United States Department of Education, Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs (OLCA) at (202) 401-0020.

Sincerely,



Catherine Lhamon
Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights