



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

26 FEDERAL PLAZA, SUITE 31 – 100
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

REGION 2

NEW JERSEY
NEW YORK
PUERTO RICO
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

January 27, 2025

Sent by email only to contact@legalinsurrection.com

William A. Jacobson, Esq.
President
Legal Insurrection Foundation
The Equal Protection Project
18 Maple Avenue #280
Barrington, Rhode Island 02806

Re: Case Number 02-24-1562 – Ithaca City School District

Dear Mr. Jacobson:

On August 12, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education (the Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) received the complaint you filed against the Ithaca City School District (the District). The complaint alleged that the District discriminated on the bases of race and color by sponsoring Students of Color United Summits that excluded white students from 2021 to May 28, 2024. OCR is opening the allegation for investigation.

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the bases of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving financial assistance from the Department. As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department, the District must comply with Title VI and its implementing regulations.

OCR will investigate the following issue: whether the District subjected students to different treatment on the bases of race and color by sponsoring Students of Color United Summits that excluded white students in violation of Title VI and its implementing regulations.

Please understand that opening an investigation under Title VI does not mean that OCR has made a decision about the merits. During the investigation, OCR is neutral; OCR will collect and analyze the evidence it needs to make a decision about the complaint. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient as required by [OCR's Case Processing Manual \(July 18, 2022\) \(CPM\)](#). Individuals who file complaints with OCR may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

When appropriate, the complaint may be resolved before the conclusion of an investigation when the District expresses an interest to OCR to resolve the complaint and OCR determines that it is appropriate to resolve the complaint allegations because OCR's investigation has identified concerns that can be addressed through a resolution agreement.

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 OCR determines during the course of the investigation that a complaint could be appropriate for mediation, OCR will contact the parties and offer this resolution option.

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 against the District with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

If you have any questions, please contact [REDACTED], Senior Compliance Team Attorney, at [REDACTED] or g [REDACTED]; or me at [REDACTED] or a [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Compliance Team Leader