

U.S. Department of Education – Office for Civil Rights

Discrimination, Civil Rights Violations, and Violations of Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

The mission of the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is to ensure equal access to education and to promote education excellence throughout the nation through vigorous enforcement of civil rights.

OCR serves student populations facing discrimination. An important responsibility is resolving complaints of discrimination. The OCR enforces several Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance from the Department of Education. Discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin is prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; sex discrimination is prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; discrimination on the basis of disability is prohibited by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and age discrimination is prohibited by the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. These civil rights laws enforced by OCR extend to all state education agencies, elementary and secondary school systems, colleges and universities, vocational schools, proprietary schools, state vocational rehabilitation agencies, libraries, and museums that receive U.S. Department of Education funds. Areas covered may include, but are not limited to: admissions, recruitment, financial aid, academic programs, student treatment and services, counseling and guidance, discipline, classroom assignment, grading, vocational education, recreation, physical education, athletics, housing, and employment. OCR also has responsibilities under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (prohibiting disability discrimination by public entities, whether or not they receive federal financial assistance).

If you have reason to believe an organization which receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education is treating you unfairly because of your race, national origin, sex, disability or age, you may file a complaint via facsimile to 214-661-9587, or by writing a letter to:

**U.S. Department of Education
Civil Rights Division
1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620
Dallas, TX 75201-6801
(214) 661-9600**

You may also file a complaint electronically by accessing OCR's online complaint form at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/complaintprocess.html>.

The person or organization filing the complaint need not be a victim of the alleged discrimination, but may file a complaint on behalf of another person or group.