

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. email	Goodwin Liu to Ann O'Leary re: Chicago article [partial] (1 page)	12/15/1999	b(6)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Ann O'Leary
OA/Box Number: 19579

FOLDER TITLE:

Social Promotion - Chicago

2013-0436-S

rc1246

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



"Liu, Goodwin" <Goodwin_Liu@ed.gov>

12/15/99 09:40:59 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: FW: FYI: Information on Complaint Filed with OCR RE: Chicago Public Schools

OCR's version of notes I gave you yesterday Unlike my summary, this one uses complete sentences.

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Palmer, Scott

> Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 1999 6:38 PM

> To: Thornton, Leslie; Tucker, Ben; Smith, Mike; Liu, Goodwin; Winston,

> Judith; Winnick, Steve; Frank, David; Lepping, Erica; Lyon, Tom; Murphey,

> Rodger; Fleming, Scott; Rairdin, Kae; Cohen, Mike; Johnson, Judith;

> McLaughlin, Maureen; McGuire, Kent; Phillips, Gary; Frost, Susan; Wolff,

> Brenda; 'Andy_Rotherham@opd.eop.gov'; 'peter_rundlet@who.eop.gov'

> Cc: Cantu, Norma V; Pierce, Raymond; Coleman, Arthur; Lewis, Cathy H;

> Bowers, Susan

> Subject: FYI: Information on Complaint Filed with OCR RE: Chicago

> Public Schools

>

> In anticipation of various activities in Chicago this week, I wanted to

> provide you with updated information/talking points on a complaint filed

> with OCR against the Chicago Public Schools alleging improper test use in

> student promotion decisions. Please let me know if you have any questions

> or concerns.

>

> * On October 21, 1999, OCR received a complaint filed against the

> Chicago Public Schools (CPS) by Parents United for Responsible Education

> (PURE). The complaint alleged that CPS is discriminating on the basis of

> race and sex in its promotion policy, violating Title VI and Title IX.

>

> * The complaint specifically alleged that CPS is using the Iowa Test

> of Basic Skills (ITBS) as a sole criterion for promoting students to the

> 4th, 7th, and 9th grades. The complaint alleged that this has a disparate

> impact on African American, Latino, and male students, and that CPS is

> using the test in a manner that the test's makers specifically said was

> not appropriate.

>

> * The complaint provided as supporting documentation the enrollment,

> by race, in transition centers, which are designed for 15-year old

> students who have not been promoted to 9th grade. The complainant also

> provided information from the publisher of the ITBS saying that test

> scores should not be used alone in determining whether to promote a

> student.

>
> * On November 18, 1999, OCR notified PURE that it would proceed to
> gather information on the Title VI allegation, but that PURE had not
> provided a factual basis sufficient for OCR to proceed on the Title IX
> allegation.

>
> * Also on November 18, OCR notified CPS that it had received the
> complaint and requested data from CPS. The initial focus of our inquiry
> will be to determine if the use of the test is having a disparate impact
> on African American or Latino students.

>
> * CPS has indicated that it will not be able to provide data until
> after the holidays.

>
> * The complaint has received press coverage. While the complaint says
> CPS is using the ITBS as a sole criterion for promotion, CPS has said in
> public statements that it uses other factors, such as grades and
> attendance, to determine whether to promote students. The complainants
> say, however, that those factors are never used to mitigate poor ITBS
> scores, and that a student cannot be promoted without achieving the
> designated cut-off score on the ITBS.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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"Liu, Goodwin" <Goodwin_Liu@ed.gov>
12/15/99 12:40:18 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Chicago article

(b)(6)

[001]

Complaints hit school promotion rule
ROSALIND ROSSI

10/22/1999
Chicago Sun-Times
LATE SPORTS FINAL
Page 34
(Copyright 1999)

The first legal salvo was fired Thursday against the centerpiece of Mayor Daley's school reform efforts by parents who say a new promotion policy unfairly discriminates against African-American and Latino students.

One black and one Hispanic parent, as well as Parents United for Responsible Education, filed separate complaints of discrimination with the U.S. Education Department's Office of Civil Rights.

They contend black and Latino kids are being retained in percentages disproportionate to their presence in the system.

"What would be discriminatory is promoting children who are prepared only for failure," retorted schools chief Paul Vallas.

PURE executive director Julie Woestehoff said whites make up 10.3 percent of the city's student body but only 2.6 percent of the students in "transition centers," which serve those who fail to meet eighth-grade promotion criteria.

The disproportionate African-American and Hispanic retention rate is due to the enormous weight the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills play in determining whether children will be promoted, Woestehoff said.

One Latino parent, Leonardo Chavez, contended it was discriminatory that his daughter did not graduate with her class based on a test "designed for students who are native-English speakers." Chavez, in his complaint, said his family speaks Spanish at home and his daughter was in classes with native-Spanish speakers until sixth grade. His daughter, Dulce

Chavez, said she endured "psychological torture" waiting to see if she would be allowed to graduate. Ultimately, she was retested and passed - but only after missing graduation with classmates.

Vallas defended the policy, noting it has been copied nationwide and has won accolades from President Clinton. It requires that students score no lower than 1 1/2 years below grade level to be promoted, although some exceptions are made each year.

"We are basically saying we are not going to discriminate against inner-city children by watering down the standards for them or dumbing down the curriculum," Vallas said.