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Topeka Public Schools Response to Office of Civil Rights Correspondence

Topeka Public Schools is guided by core beliefs that strong schools are built on inclusive and supportive communities, and that all students deserve equitable access to opportunities that prepare them for success. These principles shape our work and reflect our unwavering commitment to students, families, and staff.

The district recently received correspondence from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. Topeka Public Schools has cooperated fully throughout this process and has consistently provided information demonstrating that our policies and practices align with applicable state and federal laws, including Title IX and FERPA. USD 501 has always complied with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and honored parents' right to access education records and information regarding their student. The district does not withhold or hide any student educational records from parents.

We are concerned with the manner in which this matter has been communicated publicly prior to a full and collaborative resolution process. Topeka Public Schools remains confident in its compliance with the law and in the steps taken to support and protect all students. We will continue to work in good faith with the Office for Civil Rights to address any questions and seek a resolution through established processes.

Our commitment to students remains the same. Topeka Public Schools will continue to provide a safe, secure, and inclusive learning environment where every student is respected, supported, and positioned for success. The safety, dignity, and well-being of our students and staff remain our highest priorities.

The district will continue to review the correspondence and evaluate next steps while remaining focused on serving the needs of our school community.

About Topeka Public Schools

Topeka Public Schools (USD 501) serves approximately 13,000 students across a diverse range of elementary, middle, and high schools in Topeka, Kansas. The district is committed to engaging, preparing, and inspiring every student through innovative programs, inclusive practices, and a strong focus on academic excellence, social-emotional support, and college and career readiness. Through partnerships with families and the community, Topeka Public Schools strives to ensure all students have the opportunities and support needed to succeed in school and beyond.