HALLSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
411 E. HIGHWAY 124
HALLSVILLE, MO 65255
PHONE (573) 696-5512
FAX (573) 696-1605

DONNA M. SIMKINS
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES
TITLE IX & COMPLIANCE OFFICER
DSIMKINS@HALLSVILLE.ORG

Department of Special Services
District Board Report
February 2025

The Hallsville School District Department of Special Services provides a growing special education community of learners ages birth through 21. This report provides summary information of organizational structure, special education services, highlights and accomplishments, as well as updates on strategic initiatives and plans to address critical needs.

THIS LETTER SUPERSEDES THE JAN. 31, 2025, LETTER ISSUED ON TITLE IX ENFORCEMENT

February 4, 2025

Dear Colleague:

This letter[1] is to clarify that, in light of a recent court decision, the United States Department of Education's (ED) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) will enforce Title IX under the provisions of the 2020 Title IX Rule,[2] rather than the 2024 Title IX Rule.[3] Accordingly, lawful Title IX enforcement includes, *inter alia*, the definition of sexual harassment, the procedural protections owed to complainants and respondents, the provision of supportive measures to complainants, and school-level reporting processes as outlined in the 2020 Title IX Rule.

HALLSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
411 E. HIGHWAY 124
HALLSVILLE, MO 65255
PHONE (573) 696-5512
FAX (573) 696-1605

DONNA M. SIMKINS
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES
TITLE IX & COMPLIANCE OFFICER
DSIMKINS@HALLSVILLE.ORG

On January 9, 2025, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky issued a decision that vacated the entirety of the 2024 Title IX Rule nationwide.[4] Prior to that decision, federal courts in other jurisdictions had enjoined the 2024 Title IX Rule, which amounted to a prohibition against its enforcement in 26 states.[5] Although the United States Department of Justice is responsible for determining whether to appeal the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky's vacatur order, that judgment was immediately effective and no portion of the 2024 Title IX Rule is now in effect in any jurisdiction.

In addition, on January 20, 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government. President Trump ordered all agencies and departments within the Executive Branch to "enforce all sex-protective laws to promote [the] reality" that there are "two sexes, male and female," and that "[t]hese sexes are not changeable and are grounded in fundamental and incontrovertible reality." ED and OCR must enforce Title IX consistent with President Trump's Order.

In light of the recent federal court decision vacating the 2024 Title IX Rule, and consistent with President Trump's *Defending Women* Executive Order, the binding regulatory framework for Title IX enforcement includes the principles and provisions of the 2020 Title IX Rule and the longstanding Title IX regulations outlined in 34 C.F.R. 106 et seq., but excludes the vacated 2024 Title IX Rule. Accordingly, open Title IX investigations initiated under the 2024 Title IX Rule should be immediately reevaluated to ensure consistency with the requirements of the 2020 Title IX Rule and the preexisting regulations at 34 C.F.R. 106 et seq.

Resources pertaining to Title IX and the 2020 Title IX Rule are available here.

Sincerely,

/s/
Craig Trainor
Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
United States Department of Education

HALLSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
411 E. HIGHWAY 124
HALLSVILLE, MO 65255
PHONE (573) 696-5512
FAX (573) 696-1605

DONNA M. SIMKINS
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES
TITLE IX & COMPLIANCE OFFICER
DSIMKINS@HALLSVILLE.ORG

1 This letter replaces and supersedes the January 31, 2025, letter issued on Title IX enforcement.

2 85 Fed. Reg. 30026 (2020).
3 89 Fed. Reg. 33474 (2024).
4 *Tennessee v. Cardona*, No. 24-0072-DCR, 2025 WL 63795, at *6 (E.D. Ky. Jan. 9, 2025).
5 See *Alabama v. U.S. Sec. of Educ.*, No. 24-12444, 2024 WL 3981994 (11th Cir. Aug. 22, 2024); *Oklahoma v. Cardona*, No. CIV-24-00461-JD, 2024 WL 3609109 (W.D. Okla. July 31, 2024); *Arkansas v. Dep't of Educ.*, No. 4:24-CV-636-RWS, 2024 WL 3518588 (E.D. Mo. July 24, 2024); *Texas v. United States*, No. 2:24-CV-86-Z, 2024 WL 3405342 (N.D. Tex. July 11, 2024); *Kansas v. Dep't of Educ.*, No. 24-4041-JWB, 2024 WL 3273285 (D. Kan. July 2, 2024); *Louisiana v. Dep't of Educ.*, No. 3:24-CV-00563, 2024 WL 2978786 (W.D. La. June 13, 2024).

Staff Professional Development

2/19/25 MAP-A Eligibility RPDC Participants: Samantha Huff & Julie Johnson

Council for Exceptional Children provided to all staff :

- Accentuate the Positive! Evidence-based Practices for Positive Behaviors
- Educational Technology: What do we do with technology in the classroom
- Behaviors that Challenge Adults in Early Childhood
- Leveraging Resources in the Classroom: Increasing Communication for Students with Autism and Complex Communication Needs.

New Hires

Lisa Kelly-Paraprofessional

Resignations

None