



For Immediate Release:
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**Richmond County School System letter to families on U.S. Department of Education
Civil Rights Data Review**

(AUGUSTA, GEORGIA) – The Richmond County School System has received a letter from the U.S. Department of Education regarding its review of 2023-24 Civil Rights Data Collection submissions.

The following statement is from Superintendent Dr. Malinda Cobb:

“Our community may have seen recent news regarding a U.S. Department of Education investigation involving the review of Civil Rights Data Collection submissions from selected school systems, including Richmond County. While we understand this news may raise questions, I want to reassure you that the safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. Every student deserves to learn in a safe and secure environment, and every family deserves confidence that their child is cared for while at school.

The Richmond County School System is one of 20 districts across Georgia and the nation to receive a letter from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights regarding the 2023–2024 Civil Rights Data Collection submission. According to OCR, the review will examine certain reported data and whether our policies, procedures, and response to allegations involving sexual harassment and sexual assault are consistent with Title IX requirements.

OCR's letter also states that the initiation of this review is not evidence of a violation of federal civil rights laws or regulations. The Office for Civil Rights has indicated it will conduct a neutral review to determine compliance, and we will fully cooperate throughout the process.

The Richmond County School System takes all reports involving student safety and employee misconduct seriously. We follow established federal and state laws, Board policies, and administrative procedures when responding to concerns, and we cooperate with law enforcement, child protection agencies, and other appropriate authorities as required.

MEDIA ADVISORY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS



We will continue to work collaboratively with state and federal officials throughout this review while remaining focused on serving our students and supporting our schools.

We remain committed to providing safe and secure learning environments where every student can learn, grow, and thrive. Thank you for the trust you place in the Richmond County School System each day. We do not take that trust for granted, and we remain committed to earning it through our actions.”

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Empowering Every Learner Every Day.

VISION STATEMENT:

To prepare every student to thrive, adapt, and lead in an ever-changing world.