



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

May 10, 2016

Dear Superintendent:

Thank you for participating in the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) survey for the 2013–14 school year. The CRDC is a valuable source of information about access to educational opportunities in our nation's public schools. It is used by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and other Department of Education offices, as well as policymakers, researchers, parents, and many others in the education community. Your submission of relevant, accurate, and accessible data to OCR is vitally important to ensuring equal educational opportunity for all students.

In the coming months, OCR will be making the 2013–14 CRDC data publicly available on the OCR data reporting website (<http://ocrdata.ed.gov>). I encourage you to visit the website and view your data as well as the data provided by school districts across the nation. The resources and tools on the website are there to support your efforts to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence.

The next data collection will be this 2015–16 school year. It will again be a universal collection in which every public school district and school in the nation will be selected to participate. All data collected for the 2015–16 CRDC will be data that corresponds to the 2015–16 school year. As you know, as a condition of receiving federal funds, your school district is required to submit this data. It is important that your school district take the necessary steps to retain its 2015–16 school year data so that it will be available for submission to the Department. **Data for the 2015–16 school year will need to be submitted to the Department beginning in the fall of 2016.**

Information about the upcoming collection can be found on the CRDC website (<http://crdc.ed.gov>) and the CRDC Resource Center website (<https://crdc.grads360.org>). School districts may contact the 2015-16 CRDC Partner Support Center (PSC) for technical assistance via email (crdc@aemcorp.com) or phone (855-255-6901). In the next few months, OCR will be sending out further updates as the survey collection approaches.

Thank you in advance for your participation in the 2015–16 CRDC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Lhamon".

Catherine E. Lhamon
Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

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