



League of United Latin American Citizens

State of Wisconsin

5012 W. Ashland Way
Franklin, WI 53132

PRESS RELEASE

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LULAC CONFIRMS OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT AGAINST MPS & BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Milwaukee, WI - The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) of Wisconsin confirms that a complaint has been filed with the Office of Civil Rights concerning the compliance of Milwaukee Public Schools and its Board of School Directors with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"At the direction of the State Assembly, LULAC of Wisconsin has filed an OCR complaint concerning compliance by Milwaukee Public School District regarding English Language Learners," stated Darryl D. Morin, State Director of LULAC of Wisconsin. "In the U.S. Supreme Court finding in *Lau v. Nichols*, the court upheld the finding that school districts must help English Language Learners overcome language barriers, allowing them to participate meaningfully in the district's education programs. LULAC of Wisconsin has serious concerns regarding the education theory, programming, and resources allocated to these efforts at MPS. For this reason, we have filed this complaint that will either validate the district's efforts, or result in systematic improvements that will better serve the students and business community of Milwaukee."

Ms. Yolanda Santos Adams, Deputy State Director of LULAC stated, "When LULAC Council 320 in Kenosha filed a similar complaint almost a decade ago with the Office of Civil Rights against Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD), the outcome was positive change that dramatically improved the way bilingual students receive instruction and the Bilingual Program is administered. Furthermore, it fast-forwarded the plan to increase recruitment and hiring, retention and certification of its bilingual teachers, something that was critically needed."

"At the time of the filing of the complaint, I was the President of the KUSD Board of Education. I can proudly say the KUSD Superintendent and Board members moved quickly and diligently to create a strategic plan that resulted in the successful completion of a subsequent 5-year compliance review by the OCR," added Adams.

"This is but one more in a series of actions that LULAC of Wisconsin has planned to ensure that every child, regardless of color, religion, or nation of origin has the same opportunity to a quality education. It is incumbent upon every administrator, educator, elected official, business leader, and parent to do what they can to give our children the best education possible," added Morin.

LULAC of Wisconsin announced its Better Education Together Initiative earlier this year calling for administrators, educators, elected officials, business leaders and parents to come together to improve the state of education in Milwaukee and in Wisconsin. Events included Business & Government in Education which featured Dr. Kris Gutierrez of President Obama's Education Transition Team and Ms. Lydia Logan, Executive Director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for a Competitive Workforce.

"Advancing the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans"

www.LULAC-Wisconsin.org



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Additional information is available at www.LULAC-Wisconsin.org .

The League of the United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is our country's oldest and largest Hispanic membership based organization. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

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