

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

1. Name of person filing this complaint:

Daniel M. Levy
Director of Law and Policy
Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights
3054 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 3-600
Detroit, MI 48202
levyd@michigan.gov
tel: (313) 456-3812
fax: (313) 456-3791

2. Name of person discriminated against:

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights files this complaint on behalf of all present and future students who are, are descended from, or otherwise self-identify as American Indians.

3. Institutions or agencies that are responsible for the alleged discrimination:

Athens Indians	Morley-Stanwood Mohawks
Bay City Western Warriors	New Boston Huron Chiefs
Belding Redskins	Newberry Indians
Birmingham Brother Rice Warriors	Paw Paw Redskins
Brownstown Woodhaven Warriors	Plymouth Canton Chiefs
Camden-Frontier Redskins	Port Huron Big Reds
Capac Chiefs	Remus Chippewa Hills Warriors
Cheboygan Chiefs	Sandusky Redskins
Chesaning Indians	Saranac Redskins
Chippewa Valley Big Reds	Saugatuck Indians
Clinton Redskins	Tawas (City) Area Braves
Dowagiac Chieftains	Tecumseh Indians
Gladstone Braves	Tekonsha Indians
Grass Lake Warriors	Utica Chieftains
Hartford Indians	Walled Lake Western Warriors
Kinde-North Huron Warriors	White Cloud Indians
Lansing Sexton Big Reds	White Pigeon Chiefs
Marquette Redmen/Redettes	

Contact and address information attached.

4. Basis of Complaint:

Race/Color/National Origin – American Indian

5. Description of Discriminatory Act(s):

Continued use of American Indian mascots, names, nicknames, logos, slogans, chants and/or other imagery by each of the schools named in the complaint creates a hostile environment and denies equal rights to all current and future American Indian students. **See attached Argument in Support of Complaint.**

6. Most Recent Date of Discrimination:

Discrimination is ongoing and was occurring on February 8, 2013, the date this complaint was filed.

7. Is a 180 day Waiver required?

No (see #6).

8. Have you attempted to resolve these allegations with the institution through an internal grievance procedure, appeal or due process hearing?

N/A. The Michigan Department of Civil Rights / Civil Rights Commission have, however, issued a number of statements over time indicating our belief that the schools need to change their mascots/nicknames/imagery.

9. Have the allegations contained in this complaint been filed with any other Federal, state or local civil rights agency, or any Federal or state court?

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights is not aware of any complaint similar to this one. There have been complaints filed by individuals against individual schools (including some with this MDCR) but MDCR is not aware of any open case involving present and/or future students.

10. Secondary Contact:

The main contact number for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights is 313-456-3700.

11. What remedy is being sought?

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights requests that the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR), determine that the use of American Indian mascots, names, terms, graphics and/or other imagery (particularly those which portray stereotypical Indian images as warriors), negatively impacts a minority of primary and secondary students thereby denying them equal protection and opportunity; and that OCR therefore order that:

A. The use of American Indian mascots, names, terms, graphics and/or other imagery (particularly those which portray stereotypical Indian images as warriors), will not be permitted in primary or secondary educational institutions that receive federal funds, (except in the very limited and well defined circumstances described below).

B. The term "Redskins" has historically been used as a racial slur, and for this reason carries particularly negative connotations that accentuate the negative impact of associated stereotypes. Use of the term as a team name by primary or secondary educational institutions that receive federal funds is always impermissible.

C. Where limited uses of images, particularly the use of names of locally significant tribes or tribal persons with tribal support for doing so, can be done in a way that is respectful and which does not reinforce any singular limiting image of Indian Peoples, they may be continued, but only within guidelines provided by OCR.

D. The use of American-Indian names and/or imagery by each of the schools named in this complaint falls within the impermissible uses described above and must cease.

12. Dated Signature

Date

Daniel M. Levy
Director of Law and Policy
Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights
3054 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 3-600

Contact and Address Information

Athens Area Schools
Mr. Richard Franklin, Superintendent
4320 K Drive S.
East Leroy, MI 49051

Bay City Public Schools
Mr. Douglas Newcombe, Superintendent
910 N. Walnut Street
Bay City, MI 48706

Belding Area Schools
Ms. Sara Shriver, Interim Superintendent
1975 Orchard Street
Belding, MI 48809

Birmingham Brother Rice
Mr. John Birney, President
7101 Lahser Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

Woodhaven Brownstown School District
Mr. Mark Greathead, Superintendent
24821 Hall Road
Woodhaven, MI 48183

Camden-Frontier School District
Mr. Scott Riley, Superintendent
4971 West Montgomery Road
Camden, MI 49232

Capac Community Schools
Dr. Charles C. Smith,
Interim Superintendent
403 North Glassford Street
Capac, MI 48014

Cheboygan Area School District
Mr. Mark Dombroski, Superintendent
7461 N. Straits Highway
Cheboygan, MI 49721

Chesaning Union Schools
Mr. Michael McGough, Superintendent
850 N. 4th Street
Chesaning, MI 48616

Chippewa Valley Schools
Mr. Ronald Roberts, Superintendent
19120 Cass Avenue
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Clinton Community Schools
Mr. Dave Pray, Superintendent
341 E. Michigan Avenue
Clinton, MI 49236

Dowagiac Union Schools
Dr. Mark Daniel, Superintendent
243 S. Front
Dowagiac, MI 49047

Gladstone Area Public Schools
Dr. Jay Kulbertis, Superintendent
400 South 10th Street
Gladstone, MI 49837

Grass Lake Community Schools
Mr. Bradley Hamilton, Superintendent
899 S. Union Street
Grass Lake, MI 49240

Hartford Public Schools
Mr. Michael Hallgren, Superintendent
115 School Street
Hartford, MI 49057

North Huron School District
Mr. Martin Prout, Superintendent
21 Main Street
Kinde, MI 48445

JW Sexton High School
Lansing School District
Ms. Yvonne Caamal-Canul, Superintendent
519 West Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48933

Marquette Area Public Schools
Ms. Deborah Veiht, Superintendent
1201 West Fair
Marquette, MI 49855

Morley Stanwood Community Schools
Roger Cole, Superintendent
4700 Northland Drive
Morley, MI 49336

Huron School District
Richard Naughton, Superintendent
32044 Huron River Drive
New Boston, MI 48164

Tahquamenon Area Schools
Alice Walker, Superintendent
700 Newberry Ave
Newberry, MI 49868

Paw Paw Public School District
Mark Bielang, Superintendent
119 Johnson St
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Superintendent
E.J. McClendon Educational Center
454 South Harvey
Plymouth, MI 48170

Port Huron Area School District
H. Ronald Wollen, Superintendent
1925 Lapeer
Port Huron, MI 48060

Chippewa Hills School District
Shirley Howard, Superintendent
3226 Arthur Rd
Remus, MI 49340

Sandusky Community Schools
Michael Carmean, Superintendent
191 Pine Tree Lane
Sandusky, MI 48471

Saranac Community Schools
Maury Geiger, Superintendent
88 S. Pleasant St
Saranac, MI 48881

Saugatuck Public Schools
Rolfe Timmerman, Superintendent
201 Randolph St
Douglas, MI 49406

Tawas Area Schools
Donald Vernon, Superintendent
245 West M-55
Tawas City, MI 48763

Tecumseh Public Schools
Michael McAran, Superintendent
212 N. Ottawa St
Tecumseh, MI 49286

Tekonsha Community Schools
Joseph Krause
245 S Elm St
Tekonsha, MI 49092

Utica Community Schools
Michael Bender, Executive Administrator of
Schools
Michele VandeKerkhove, Executive
Administrator of Schools
11303 Greendale
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Walled Lake Consolidated School District
Kenneth Gutman, Superintendent
850 Ladd Rd, Building D
Walled Lake, MI 48390

White Cloud School District
Barry Seabrook, Superintendent
PO Box 1003
555 E Wilcox
White Cloud, MI 49349

White Pigeon Community Schools
Ronald Drzewicki, Superintendent
305 E Hotchin
White Pigeon, MI 49099