

15-910(J)(3)(d) The initial date that the school district began to levy property taxes to provide funding for desegregation expenses and any dates that these property tax levies were increased:

Initial Levy: 1992-1993 fiscal year

Levy Increases: The Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for Arizona School Districts, promulgated by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Agency, mandates the destruction of school district budgets three years after their adoption. The District therefore lacks records necessary to fully answer this inquiry.

It is known, however, that the District has not increased its desegregation levy in any fiscal year from 1999-2000 to the present.

15-910(J)(3)(k)

Verification that the desegregation funding will supplement and not supplant funding for other academic and extracurricular activities

The Amphitheater Unified School District desegregation programs did not exist in their current form at the time the federal Office of Civil Rights required the District, by administrative agreement, to develop those programs and services. Those programs and services have changed over time, but do and will supplement and do not and will not supplant the programs and services which existed prior to the Administrative Agreements.

15-910(J)(3)(I)

Verification that the desegregation funding is educationally justifiable.

The Amphitheater District's April 1993 Administrative Agreement with the U.S. Office for Civil Rights mandated the implementation of a new system of imposing, documenting and auditing student discipline, for the purpose of ensuring equity and the absence of discriminatory impact in student discipline-related functions. The District's January, 1994 administrative agreement with the U.S. Office for Civil Rights required programs and activities which would assure access to and equity in programs in District programs and services for minority students. Desegregation funding received by the Amphitheater District is used to implement these agreements.

Certainly, without question, the purpose, intent and requirements of the administrative agreements are educationally justified as is the funding of the same.

15-910(J)(3)(m)

Any documentation that supports the proposition that the requested desegregation funding is intended to result in equal education opportunities for all pupils in the school district.

Substantial documentation of the basis, purpose and intent of the Amphitheater District's desegregation funding was included in the District's September 19, 2003 Sunset Review submission concerning the desegregation funding statute, which was submitted to Ms. Kimberly Yee at the Arizona State Senate.

15-910(J)(3)(n)

Verification that the desegregation funding will be used to promote systemic and organizational changes within the school district.

The 1993 and 1994 Office for Civil Rights Administrative Agreements mandated substantial systemic and organizational changes within the Amphitheater District. New programs and services were required. For example, prior to the 1993 Agreement, student discipline records were maintained on a localized, school-site basis. The Administrative Agreements required, among other things, the District implement a centralized, district-wide recordkeeping system. That centralized system was, and continues to be, made possible by the District's desegregation funding. Desegregation funding also supports other programs such as auditing of disciplinary records and expanded, comprehensive ELL services, both of which were also changes in District organization in place at the time of the respective Office of Civil Rights Agreement.

15-910(J)(3)(o)

Verification that the desegregation funding will be used in accordance with the academic standards adopted by the state board of education pursuant to sections 15-701 and 15-701.01.

District programs and services made possible by the District's desegregation funding are in accordance with Arizona State Board of Education academic standards, as these standards are applicable.

15-910(J)(3)(p)

Verification that the desegregation funding will be used to accomplish specific actions to remediate proven discrimination pursuant to title VI of the civil rights act of 1964 (42 United States Code §2000d) as specified in the court order or administrative agreement.

The desegregation funding received by the District has been and will continue to be used to accomplish specific actions which will ensure equity in the provision of programs and services for LEP and minority students, and remediate alleged or proven discrimination, as required by the Office of Civil Rights administrative agreements and as permitted by A.R.S. § 15-910.

15-910(J)(3)(q)

An evaluation by the school district of the effectiveness of the school district's desegregation measures.

All of Amphi's desegregation activities have been highly effective at resolving the issues that gave rise to them. One very clear indication of their success is the fact that OCR has ceased monitoring Amphi compliance under both corrective action agreements. This reflects OCR's determination that the Amphi is compliant, i.e., that Amphi provides the requisite programs and services for LEP student and that Amphi evidences demonstrable proof of equitable disciplinary practices. Other measures of success and effectiveness include the following:

- In 1996-1997, as the Lau Agreement was nearing just its third year of implementation, Amphi's rate of ESL students being reclassified as English Proficient was higher (9.3%) than the statewide rates reported by the Arizona Department of Education (2.7%). In November 1998, as OCR concluded monitoring under the Lau Agreement, it found that for the entire five years of monitoring, Amphi's reclassification rates remained consistently high, at approximately the 9% mark or higher.
- Amphi's Lau Agreement activities continue to result in high numbers of students being reclassified from LEP status to English Proficient status, and specific reclassification rates verifying this are already annually reported to the Arizona Department of Education.
- The Arizona Department of Education has specifically recognized the quality and effectiveness of Amphitheater Sheltered English Immersion programs and staff.
- Amphi implemented in-school suspension and behavioral intervention alternatives years before the legislature required the same by virtue of A.R.S. § 15-841(I), recognizing the effectiveness of such programs.
- Amphi maintains consistently high correlation in the data found in school based student disciplinary records and those maintained centrally.
- OCR determined that Amphi made significant gains in accuracy of student disciplinary records while at the same time decreasing student disciplinary incidents.

15-910(J)(3)(r)

An estimate of when the school district will be in compliance with the court order or administrative agreement and a detailed account of the steps that the school district will take to achieve compliance.

The Office of Civil Rights has determined that the Amphitheater District is in compliance with the 1993 and 1994 Administrative Agreements. District desegregation efforts and funding continue to maintain compliance.

15-910(J)(3)(s)

Any other information that the department of education deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this paragraph.

To the knowledge of Amphitheater Public Schools, the Department has not indicated that any additional information is required.