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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

September 28, 2026

The Honorable Dave W. Sunday
Attorney General of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Attorney General Sunday:

As you may be aware, there have been various reports that classrooms in the School District of Philadelphia ("SDP") have become breeding grounds for antisemitism. In fact, these concerns have led to a Congressional investigation into the SDP to determine whether there was or is a hostile environment against Jewish K-12 students.¹ There have been allegations that educators in the SDP promote antisemitic content in their classrooms², with one teacher allegedly threatening Jewish students and parents online.³ Additionally, teachers have utilized lessons from an effort called "Teaching Palestine," which includes class materials that rationalize terrorist violence and advocate for the destruction of Israel.⁴

Perhaps even more alarming, the SDP's director of social studies curriculum is a vocal defender of the terrorist group Hamas and has stated that Israel is a "terrorist state" and a "racist apartheid theocracy."⁵ Other teachers have accused Israel of being a genocidal terror whose military actions in Gaza are "worse than gas chambers."⁶ In 2024, the SDP settled a federal discrimination case with the Department of Education after students allegedly taunted their Jewish classmates with Nazi salutes, swastika graffiti on doors, and threats to "kill the Jews."⁷

Local parents have repeatedly indicated that these behaviors and this antisemitic atmosphere continue to persist throughout the SDP. Jewish students, like all students, should be able to learn in an environment

¹ Chair Walberg Launches Nationwide Investigation into Antisemitism in K-12 Schools, <https://edworkforce.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=412833>

² Rights Violations at the School District of Philadelphia, ADL (2024), <https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/2024-07/adl-and-sdp-complaint.pdf> (last visited Oct 16, 2025).

³ David Swindle, Philadelphia teacher 'reassigned offsite' while public school district investigates alleged Jew-hatred, JNS, <https://www.jns.org/news/philadelphia-teacher-reassigned-offsite-while-public-school-district-investigates-alleged-jew-hatred>

⁴ Robert Schmad, Nonprofit Network Pushes pro-Palestinian Lessons into Public Schools, WASHINGTON EXAMINER (2025), <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/investigations/3324961/nonprofit-network-pro-palestinian-lessonspublic-schools/>

⁵ Alana Goodman, 'Quite Shocking to Us': Local Parents Fighting 'Cesspool' of Anti-Semitism in Philly Schools Say Josh Shapiro's Office Stopped Meeting With Them, THE WASHINGTON FREE BEACON (2025), <https://freebeacon.com/campus/quite-shocking-to-us-local-parents-fighting-cesspool-of-anti-semitism-in-philly-schools-say-josh-shapiros-office-stopped-meeting-with-them/>

⁶ Alana Goodman, Jewish Groups Call Out Philly School District After Administrator Blames Israel for Oct. 7, THE WASHINGTON FREE BEACON (2025), <https://freebeacon.com/campus/jewish-groups-call-out-philly-school-district-after-administrator-blames-israel-for-oct-7/>

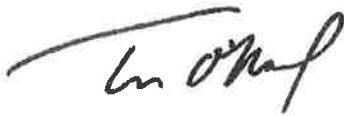
⁷ JNS, <https://www.jns.org/antisemitism/philadelphia-school-district-reaches-agreement-after-title-vi-investigation>; Carly Sitrin Chalkbeat and Dale Mezzacappa, PENNSYLVANIA CAPITAL STAR (2025), Philadelphia district agrees to changes after feds find poor response to antisemitic incidents, <https://penncapital-star.com/education/philadelphia-district-agrees-to-changes-after-feds-find-poor-response-to-antisemitic-incidents/>

that is free from discrimination. The Civil Rights Enforcement Section within the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General is tasked with ensuring equity in schools by addressing systemic discrimination and protecting equal access to education.

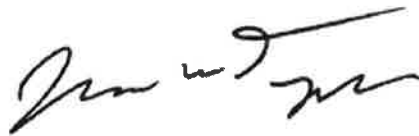
Therefore, we are respectfully referring this matter to your office's Civil Rights Enforcement Section to investigate whether a systemic pattern of discrimination against Jewish students exists in the SDP and consequently prevents these students from equal access to education. Additionally, we would ask your office to determine whether any potential violations of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code have occurred in the SDP, including, but not limited to, Ethnic Intimidation (18 Pa.C.S.A. § 2710) or Harassment (18 Pa.C.S.A. § 2709).

The Office of Attorney General must ensure that Jewish students have a safe learning environment that is free from discrimination within the SDP. We ask you to investigate this matter to determine if any criminal activity occurred and take the appropriate action your office deems necessary.

Sincerely,



Timothy O'Neal
48th Legislative District



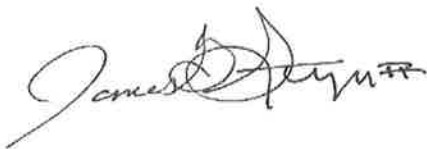
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