



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

January 14, 2026

By email only to [jeffery\\_kathryn@smc.edu](mailto:jeffery_kathryn@smc.edu)

Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery  
President  
Santa Monica College  
1900 Pico Boulevard  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Re: Santa Monica College – OCR Case Number 09252320

Dear Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery:

On February 18, 2025, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received a complaint against Santa Monica College (the College). The complaint alleges that the College discriminates on the basis of sex. Specifically, the complaint alleges that on February 5, 2025, the College sent a communication to the College community condemning the presidential executive order that bans transgender athletes from participating in women's sports and stating that the College would continue to follow California law which allows transgender athletes to participate in sports.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. As a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Department, the College must comply with this law.

OCR is opening an investigation to examine whether the College has a policy or practice of allowing male students to participate in athletic programs designated for female students in violation of Title IX and its implementing regulation.

**Enclosed is an initial data request for information needed to process this complaint.**

OCR's initiation of an investigation is not itself evidence of a violation of federal civil rights laws and regulations. During the investigation, OCR is neutral; OCR will collect and analyze the evidence it needs in order to make a decision about the complaint. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient in accordance with OCR's [Case Processing Manual \(CPM\) \(February 19, 2025\)](#).

Please be advised that the College must not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against an individual because that individual asserts a right or privilege under a law enforced by OCR or files a complaint, testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding under a law enforced by OCR. If this happens, the individual may file a retaliation complaint with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [anamaria.loya@ed.gov](mailto:anamaria.loya@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anamaria Loya".

Anamaria Loya  
Chief Attorney

Enclosure

**Santa Monica College  
OCR Case Number 09252320**

**Data Request**

Please submit the following information to Anamaria Loya ([anamara.loya@ed.gov](mailto:anamara.loya@ed.gov)) by **January 29, 2026**. If any item in our request is unclear, or if you experience any difficulty complying with this request, please contact the staff member(s) identified above prior to the due date. OCR requests that you submit information electronically, if feasible. Upon request, OCR may create a secure external sharing site for you to upload the submission. You may contact us for more information about this option. Please do not provide the information via an electronic cloud format such as Google Docs. If any of the requested information is available to the public on the Internet, you may provide the website address. If any responsive documents contain Social Security numbers, please redact them before producing the documents to OCR.

The Department of Education's regulation implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, at 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(c), which is incorporated by reference in the Title IX regulation at 34 C.F.R. § 106.81, gives OCR the authority to request this information. In addition, in accordance with the regulation implementing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, at 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(3)(iii), and the Title VI regulation at 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(c), OCR may review personally identifiable records without regard to considerations of privacy or confidentiality. OCR will take all proper precautions to protect the identity of any individuals named in the records.

OCR may request supplemental data and documents that are relevant to the allegations under investigation. If the College obtains any additional information or documents responsive to this data request or otherwise relevant to the allegations in this case, the College must promptly inform OCR of its existence and supplement the data response within 15 days of its discovery. OCR reminds the College that a failure to provide requested information may be considered a denial of access in violation of the regulations cited above. Please ensure that College employees preserve all data and documents that are relevant to the allegation under investigation until OCR closes this case.

1. The name and contact information of the individual who will serve as OCR's contact person during the investigation of this complaint.
2. The College's narrative response to the allegation(s) under investigation and all documents or records referenced in the narrative response.
3. The College's Title IX grievance procedures, and where those procedures are published.
4. The name and contact information of the College's Title IX Coordinator.
5. All College policies, procedures, directives, written descriptions of practices, and other written guidance in effect at the College during the 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 school years pertaining to male students participating in sex-separated sports/athletic teams designated for female students. If any changes were made to

polices, procedures, or practices during the relevant time period, please indicate the date of the change and describe what was changed.

6. If not provided in response to #5, above, all College policies and procedures describing the definition or meaning of the words “sex,” “gender” and/or “gender identity.”
7. All guidance the College received from external entities regarding student participation in sex-separated sports/athletic teams , based on a student’s “gender identity” or similar terms, including guidance from the state department of education, state athletic association, intercollegiate athletic associations, or other athletic association(s) in which the College participated, during the 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 school years. Indicate who provided the guidance, when the guidance was received, and provide a copy of all written guidance received and a description of all verbal guidance received.
8. All formal or informal complaints or reports received by the College during the 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 school years pertaining to the participation of male students in sex-separated sports/athletic teams designated for female students. Include all records pertaining to the College’s investigation into the complaints or reports, including but not limited to: the name(s) and title(s) of the individuals who conducted the investigation, investigative reports, interview notes and witness statements, final determinations, and a description of any corrective actions or remedies provided.
9. A list of College sports/athletic teams designated for female students in which a male student participated during the 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 school years. In addition, provide the team roster and identify the male participant(s).
10. The name(s) of the athletic association(s) in which the College’s athletic teams competed or will compete during the 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 school years.
11. Any additional information the College believes may be helpful in resolving this complaint.