

Discrimination Complaint Filed Against Idaho Public Charter Schools

News Release – Centro de Comunidad y Justicia

On Monday, May 18th, the Centro de Comunidad y Justicia, (CCJ) filed a discrimination complaint against the Idaho State Department of Education, the Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho Charter School Commission, and Idaho's 48 Charter Schools and their Boards of Directors.

The complaint filed with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Department of Education's office in Seattle, seeks equal opportunity and representation in Idaho's charter schools for Latino students, students with limited-English Proficiency (LEP), students with disabilities, and students from low-income families.

According to evidence originally reported by Levi Cavener, a Special Education teacher from Caldwell, and later confirmed by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission, CCJ alleges that "Idaho's charter school system has evolved into a unequal public school system that discriminates against students of color, LEP students, students with disabilities (many whom are Latino), and students from low-income families."

In filing this complaint, CCJ has no desire to limit or deny the educational benefits of charter schools to any other students. Rather, CCJ simply seeks equal opportunity and representation in Idaho's public charter schools for Latino students, students with limited English proficiency, students with disabilities, and students from low-income families.

The immediate relief requested by CCJ includes a thorough investigation of Idaho's public charter school system, including all of Idaho's 48 public charter schools, the Commission and the Idaho Dept. of Education; and a determination by the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) that Idaho has implemented a public charter school system that discriminates based upon race, color, national origin, ethnicity and disability.