



July 13, 2021

Sent electronically to: jriches@goldwaterinstitute.org

Re: APRA Request Received on July 1, 2021

Dear Mr. Riches:

This office represents the South Kingstown School Department. In this capacity, I am in receipt of your revised request for certain records under the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act. Specifically, you requested documents related to the following:

1. *Lesson plans or course materials used or assigned at any school within the South Kingston School Department in the 2020-2021 school year that include any of the following terms:*

- a. *"1619 Project"*
- b. *"Zinn Education Project" or "Howard Zinn"*
- c. *"Equitable Math"*
- d. *"Gender theory"*
- e. *"White privilege" or "whiteness"*
- f. *"Systemic racism"*
- g. *"CRT" or "Critical Race Theory"*
- h. *"Ibram Kendi" or "Kendi"*
- i. *"Robin DiAngelo" or "DiAngelo"*

Response: The District estimates that it will take 8 hours to retrieve, redact and compile the requested School Department documents. Therefore, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-4 (b), there shall be a search and retrieval fee for said documents of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per hour.

For a total cost of: 8 hours (first hour free) x \$15.00 = **\$105.00**

You will be provided with those documents electronically.

Should you wish to pay the total amount **\$105.00** to receive these documents, please contact me and we will provide you with the same. Alternatively, if you wish to amend your request, please contact me with said amendment.

2. *Records of all communications, including e-mail communications to or from any South Kingston School Department official, administrator, principal, teacher, teaching assistant, or counselor and any other person, from January 1, 2020 to the date of this request, that includes any of the following terms:*

- a. *"1619 Project"*
- b. *"Zinn Education Project" or "Howard Zinn"*
- c. *"Equitable Math"*
- d. *"Gender theory"*
- e. *"White privilege" or "whiteness"*
- f. *"Systemic racism"*
- g. *"CRT" or "Critical Race Theory"*

Response: The District estimates that it will take **4,954** hours to retrieve, redact and compile the requested School Department documents. Therefore, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-4 (b), there shall be a search and retrieval fee for said documents of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per hour.

For a total cost of: 4,954 hours x \$15.00 = **\$74,310.00**

You will be provided with those documents electronically.

Should you wish to pay the total amount **\$74,310.00** to receive these documents, please contact me and we will provide you with the same. Alternatively, if you wish to amend your request, please contact me with said amendment.

3. *Any policy, regulation, or procedure adopted by the South Kingston School Department that includes any of the following terms:*

- a. *"1619 Project"*
- b. *"Zinn Education Project" or "Howard Zinn"*
- c. *"Equitable Math"*
- d. *"Gender theory"*
- e. *"White privilege" or "whiteness"*
- f. *"Systemic racism"*
- g. *"CRT" or "Critical Race Theory"*
- h. *"Ibram Kendi" or "Kendi"*
- i. *"Robin DiAngelo" or "DiAngelo"*

Response: The District estimates that it will take **1** hour to retrieve, redact and compile the requested School Department documents. Therefore, pursuant to R.I.

Gen. Laws § 38-2-4 (b), there shall be a search and retrieval fee for said documents of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per hour.

For a total cost of: 1 hour x \$15.00 = **\$15.00**

You will be provided with those documents electronically.

Should you wish to pay the total amount **\$15.00** to receive these documents, please contact me and we will provide you with the same. Alternatively, if you wish to amend your request, please contact me with said amendment.

4. *Records of all communications, including e-mail communications to or from any South Kingston School Department official, teacher, or other employee and "NE Basecamp," or any person or entity that the Department knows to be affiliated with NE Basecamp, from January 1, 2020 to present, that includes the terms "CRT" or "Critical Race Theory."*

Response: NE Basecamp uses the term "CRT" to reference "Culturally Responsive Teaching," and not "Critical Race Theory." If you wish to be provided with all NE Basecamp documents that reference "CRT," referring to "Culturally Responsive Teaching," please provide a follow up request confirming the same, and the District will provide you with a time estimate.

There are no responsive documents from NE Basecamp referring to "Critical Race Theory."

5. *Copies of any request for proposals prepared by the South Kingston School Department or any school within the Department for any person or entity to conduct an "equity audit."*

Response: Please see attached.

6. *Copies of any responses to any request for proposals prepared by the South Kingston School Department or any school within the Department for any person or entity to conduct an "equity audit."*

Response: The documents requested are not public documents, as the bid has not yet been awarded. Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-55-5, the RFP process for municipalities requires competitive sealed bidding. In accordance with Section (d), the bids must be opened publicly as provided for in the RFP, and, once opened, and the contract awarded, they become public records.

“(d) Bids shall be opened publicly in full view of the public at the time and place designated in the invitation for bids. Each bid, together with the name of the bidder, shall be recorded and an abstract made available for public inspection. Subsequent to the awarding of the bid, all documents pertinent to the awarding of the bid shall be made available and open to public inspection and retained in the bid file.”

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-8, you may file an appeal with the Department of the Attorney General, 150 South Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903, or the Rhode Island Superior Court of the county where the record(s) are maintained. You may also access additional information concerning the Access to Public Records Act through the Attorney General’s website at [www.riag.ri.gov](http://www.riag.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/ Aubrey L. Lombardo

cc: Ginamarie Massiello, Acting Interim Superintendent  
Jenna Ouellette