



PRESS ADVISORY

For immediate release – December 15, 2014

Statement regarding employment lawsuits

KANSAS CITY, MO. – Kansas City Public Schools has taken and will continue to take big strides towards gaining full accreditation, earning back the trust of its community and helping its students achieve their goals. A significant part of this process involves attracting and retaining the very best employees. This can be a challenging process for some employees who are not prepared to make the necessary improvements, but KCPS will vigorously defend itself throughout this process. KCPS students and taxpayers deserve nothing less.

In order to achieve its mandate to increase student achievement, KCPS must demonstrate excellence at every level. As a consequence, KCPS employees are held to a high standard. Employees who do not provide first-rate instruction and excellent customer service, have a bad attitude or want to continue with the status quo do not have a place in this organization. KCPS has been committed to implementing this change in staff at all levels, which occasionally results in a few unhappy individuals who wish to blame everyone but themselves for the loss of their employment. Consequently, they file claims of discrimination, which KCPS believes are unfounded.

The current state of employment law in Missouri tends to favor employees, making it very difficult for employers to defend against claims of discrimination. The experience of KCPS when it comes to employment lawsuits is similar to that of other, similarly sized employers in Missouri.

To be clear, KCPS is committed to fostering a workplace that is supportive, fulfilling and cultivates excellence. KCPS provides professional development training, mentoring, special equipment and other services to help ensure that employees are given every reasonable and legally mandated opportunity to succeed. KCPS also has strict, well-considered policies against any discrimination at any and all levels of employment, and will not tolerate situations of discrimination. KCPS does and will continue to aggressively enforce those non-discrimination policies.

All of that said, KCPS does not comment on any current or pending litigation or claims. KCPS will continue to defend all cases vigorously and will not be deterred in its efforts to become the great public education provider that Kansas City deserves.

The Kansas City Public Schools is dedicated to graduating students that are college, career, and workforce ready. This mission is supported by innovative classroom instruction, engaging programs, highly qualified employees, and an engaged and well-informed community. To learn more about the ways our community of schools supports students and the community-at-large, please visit www.kcpublicschools.org Kansas City Public Schools on Facebook, or KCMOSchools on Twitter.

For more information, please contact Public Relations & Marketing Coordinator Ray Weikal at (816) 418-7414, or Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer Eileen Houston-Stewart, at (816) 418-7406.

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