



October 17, 2012

VIA FAX AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Terry M. Brister, Superintendent  
Lincoln County School District  
Post Office Box 826  
Brookhaven, Mississippi 39601-0826  
Fax: (601) 833-3030

**Re: Public Record Request Regarding School-Sponsored Religious Activity in the  
Lincoln County School District**

Dear Superintendent Brister:

This is a request under the Mississippi Public Records Act by the ACLU of Mississippi. The ACLU defends and promotes the fundamental principles embodied in the Bill of rights and the US and Mississippi Constitutions. Pursuant to the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983 (Miss. Code Ann. § 25-61-1), please provide the ACLU of Mississippi with the following public records pertaining to the West Lincoln Attendance Center ("WLAC"):

1. All documents referring or relating to any prayer, invocation, benediction, or other religious remarks delivered at any WLAC school event, including (but not limited to) programs, agendas, and the text of any prayer or religious remarks.
2. All documents referring or relating to any appearance, speech, or other presentation made to students, faculty, or staff during any WLAC school event by a minister, a faith-based or religious organization, or a representative of any faith-based or religious organization, including (but not limited to):
  - (a) all email or other correspondence sent to or from school officials regarding the appearance, speech, or other presentation;
  - (b) all written agreements, whether formal or informal, regarding the appearance, speech, or other presentation; and

(c) all documents, videos, and other materials distributed to, shown to, or made available to students, faculty, or staff during the appearance, speech, or other presentation.

3. All video or audio recordings of any invocation, sermon, proselytizing, or other religious content and messages included in any WLAC school event.
4. All policies, rules, or guidelines, governing, referring to, or relating to religion, including those pertaining to:
  - (a) school officials' conduct of prayer, proselytization, or other religious activities;
  - (b) the distribution or use of religious materials or literature on school property; and
  - (c) the display of religious iconography.
5. All policies, rules, or guidelines governing, referring to, or relating to on-campus visits, presentations, assemblies, the distribution of materials, or other activities conducted by non-school persons or groups.
6. All handbooks that apply to WLAC students, faculty, and staff.
7. All policies, rules or guidelines governing the use of school equipment or the school email, dbabble, discovernet, sam7 services or eworldnet.
8. All documents, email correspondence, and other written communications (including those sent through dbabble) sent by or to WLAC administrators to other WLAC administrators, faculty, staff, parents, or students that include reference(s) to prayer, Bible verses, scripture, proselytization, church announcements, or other religious statements or information.
9. All handouts, flyers, posters, plaques, or similar documents that include reference to prayer, Bible verses, scripture, proselytization, church announcements, Jesus or other religious statements or information.
10. All materials referring or relating to the display of religious iconography at WLAC, including all pertinent correspondence, photos, and videos evincing the display of religious items.
11. All WLAC daily announcements for the current (2012-2013) school year.
12. All policies, rules or guidelines governing faculty, staff, and administrator dress.



13. All policies, rules, or guidelines governing announcements or promotion of non-school events.
14. All documents referring or relating to Christian Leaders of the Future or Metro Christian Living.
15. All documents referring or relating to complaints or other objections - whether made by District officials, students, parents, faculty, community members, or any other person or group -to any school-sponsored event featuring religious content and messages.
16. All documents referring or relating to complaints or other objections - whether made by District officials, students, parents, faculty, community members, or any other person or group -to any use of prayer, proselytization or religious materials in any District school.
17. All documents referring or relating to the character education or character traits curriculum used at WLAC, including but not limited to:
  - (a) all policies governing the use of character education or character traits programs;
  - (b) all documents, instructions, and announcements provided to faculty and staff regarding character education or character traits; and
  - (c) all documents, videos, and other materials distributed to, shown to, or made available to students, faculty, or staff in connection with any character education or character traits program, course, or lesson.

In the above request, the term "District" means the Lincoln County School District, and/or the Lincoln County Board of School Trustees, their agents, officers, employees, representatives, servants, attorneys or anyone acting on their behalf. The requests seek responsive documents pertaining to WLAC unless otherwise stated. All requests for policies, rules, and guidelines seek WLAC-specific policies *and* any District policy that applies to WLAC students, faculty, or staff. The term "documents" includes all correspondence, electronic communications, programs, memorandum, newsletters, school announcements, notices to parents and or students, district policies, video or audio recordings or other relevant documents. The term "school events" means WLAC classes, assemblies, athletic events, club meetings, concerts, performances, graduation or promotional ceremonies, awards ceremonies, banquets, orientations, faculty meetings and trainings, and all other WLAC-sponsored events and activities. *This request seeks all responsive documents from August 1, 2009, to present.*

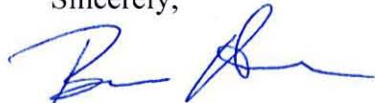
The Mississippi Public Records Act § 25-61-5 (1) (a) requires you to respond to this request within 7 working days from the date of this request. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

If you decline to provide copies of any of the requested documents, please provide a written statement, as required by Mississippi Code § 25-61-5 (2), stating the basis for your contention that any such withheld records are exempt from public inspection. Please include the citation to an exemption created or afforded by statute for any record that is withheld. In addition, please include, with particularity, the reason for your conclusion that the cited exemption is applicable to the records you have withheld. If any exemption that you assert applies only to a portion of the records, please redact the portion you claim is exempt and produce copies of the remainder of the document or documents.

If your office has a policy requiring payment for research/copying records, and the estimated cost is over \$150.00, I ask that you inform me of that charge and advise me of the estimated cost prior to copying the documents. If it would be more convenient for you to provide the documents electronically, please email them to my attention at [bearatwood@aclu-ms.org](mailto:bearatwood@aclu-ms.org).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Bear Atwood  
Legal Director