

Complaint to the Oregon Department of Education

Row 1587

Created	02/10/26 2:21 PM
Name	Carlin Washburn
Phone	7023343932
Street Address	5841 Mercer Creek Drive
City, State and Zip Code	Florence, Oregon, 97439
Email Address	carlininlv@yahoo.com
Student Name	No
District or program type	Public Charter School
Name of district or program	Whitmore Academy
Violation of a Division 22 standard	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discrimination	
Restraint and Seclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retaliation against a student	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious entanglement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you filed a complaint with your district or p	
If this is an appeal or complaint alleging a viola	
Date Complaint Filed	02/06/26

If you filed a formal complaint, have you exhausted

No

Complaint summary

The complaint concerns constitutional violations by both the charter school and its sponsoring district. Filing an internal complaint with the sponsoring district would be futile as they are complicit in the violations. I am filing directly with ODE as the appropriate oversight body. Whitmore Classical Academy, a publicly-funded charter school sponsored by Siuslaw School District, is operating as a religious institution in violation of Oregon Constitution Article I, Section 5 and ORS 338.115. What happened: Whitmore marketed itself on "Society for Classical Learning," a Christian school directory with the tagline "Find a Classical Christian School for Your Child." Whitmore is the only Oregon charter school (out of ~140) listed on this explicitly Christian recruitment website. When: · February 7, 2024: Board Chair Kay King told school board "in no way affiliated with Hillsdale" · August 1, 2024: Job posting stated curriculum "provided by Hillsdale College" (a private Christian institution) · December 2025: Claimed Christian directory listing was a "mistake" · February 2026: Still listed on "Find a Classical Christian School" directory; website features "Core Virtues" curriculum Who was involved: · Kay King (Whitmore Board President) - made demonstrably false statements · Siuslaw School District Board - approved charter without curriculum oversight · Society for Classical Learning - Christian school directory that marketed Whitmore · Hillsdale College - private Christian institution providing curriculum Religious affiliation extends beyond curriculum: Oregon law prohibits charter schools that are "religion-based" - not just those teaching religious curriculum. Religious affiliation is established through: · Marketing strategy (Christian school directory recruitment) · Community perception (supporters expect Christian education) · Institutional partnerships (Hillsdale College affiliation) · Board deception about religious connections Lack of oversight - NO documentation exists of: · Who vetted Whitmore's curriculum for religious content · What criteria was used to determine "non-religious" status after December 2025 claim · What ongoing monitoring plan exists to ensure curriculum remains secular · Any curriculum review process by the Siuslaw School Board Oregon as flagship state: If Whitmore is approved, Oregon becomes a precedent-setting state for publicly-funded religious education. John Adams Academy (California classical charter) teaches "Judeo-Christian framework" and is expanding to Colorado. Oregon approval of Whitmore will be cited to justify similar schools statewide. Every Oregon district will face pressure to approve religiously-affiliated charter schools using Whitmore as precedent. Community impact: Whitmore's Christian marketing successfully recruited families seeking religious education in public schools. A January 28, 2026 Facebook post supporting Whitmore stated: "WE NEED GOD!" (32 likes from community supporters). Pattern of deception: When confronted with Christian directory listing in December 2025, Whitmore claimed it was a "mistake" - yet remains listed on "Find a Classical Christian School" directory as of February 2026. Requested investigation: 1. Review how "non-religious affiliation" was determined after December 2025 claim 2. Identify who vetted curriculum and what process was used 3. Determine what ongoing monitoring plan exists for curriculum oversight 4. Assess whether Siuslaw School Board has procedures to prevent religious instruction in publicly-funded schools 5. Evaluate whether approval would make Oregon a flagship state for publicly-funded religious charter schools

ODE Comments

Preferred language

Accommodations needed in communicating with us

If you answered yes to the question above, how did

Did you file a complaint with the school district

How did you file?

Accommodations needed in communicating with us: None

Did you file a complaint with the school district, Yes

How did you file? Formal with the district, charter school, or education program

Preferred language: English
