

Hello Mr. Narver and Ms. Disario-

I am an attorney with the Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism (FAIR), a nonprofit, nonpartisan civil rights organization. We received a report about Lincoln High School and its plan to host a segregated potluck lunch tomorrow, March 17, 2023. Based on the report we received, and as confirmed in the newsletter ([linked here](#)) from Lincoln HS principal Corey Eichner, it appears that certain students will not be allowed to attend the lunch due to their skin color or ethnicity. Specifically, the newsletter states: "On Friday of Multicultural Week, students and staff of color and/or those who identify with any group represented by BSU [Black Student Union]/LSU [Latino Student Union]/ASU [Asian Student Union] are invited for a lunch potluck."

As you know, public schools are prohibited from discriminating against students and employees on the basis of race, skin color, or national origin. When a public school segregates or excludes its students or employees from benefits the school provides on the basis of these traits, the school violates Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, as well as the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

As proponents of pro-human antiracism, FAIR applauds Lincoln High School's efforts to celebrate its diverse student body. However, holding a school lunch as described in Principal Eichner's newsletter undoubtedly constitutes a school benefit, and neither Mr. Eichner nor any employee of Seattle Public Schools may lawfully exclude students or employees from that lunch on the basis of their immutable traits.

We urge the school to make the lunch event tomorrow open to all students and employees and to immediately and publicly notify the entire Lincoln High School community of this change. I would appreciate a response to this email acknowledging your willingness to open the event to all students.

Thank you.

**Leigh Ann O'Neill**

Staff Attorney

Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR)

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