



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FOIA Service Center

February 26, 2020

Mr. Austin R. Evers  
Executive Director  
American Oversight  
1030 15th Street  
Suite B255  
Washington, DC 20002

RE: FOIA Request No. 19-02129-F

Dear Austin R. Evers:

This letter is a final response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated August 23, 2019 and received in this office on August 26, 2019. Your request was forwarded to the following offices to search for documents that may be responsive to your request: Office of the Secretary (OS), Office of Legislation & Congressional Affairs (OLCA) and Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE).

You requested the following:

1. All email communications (including email messages, attachments, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) involving Reed Cordish and the agency officials specified below. For part 1 of this request, please provide all responsive records from February 17, 2018, until the date of the search.
2. All email communications (including email messages, attachments, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) involving (a) Margaret "Maggie" Katz Cordish or anyone communicating from an email address ending in @cordish.com and (b) the agency officials specified below. For part 2 of this request, please provide all responsive from January 20, 2017, until the date of the search.

For both parts of this request, American Oversight requests that Education produce responsive records of the following agency officials:

- i. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, including anyone communicating on her behalf, such as a special or executive assistant, or scheduler
- ii. Deputy Secretary of Education, Mitchell Zais
- iii. Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Ebony Lee
- iv. Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Lee-Douglas Simmons
- v. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Jason Botel
- vi. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Michael E. Wooten
- vii. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Planning, Mark Washington

- viii. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Kimberly R. Ford
- ix. Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Kathleen Smith
- x. Director of Correctional Education, Sean Addie
- xi. Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, A. Wayne Johnson
- xii. Senior Advisor, James F. Manning
- xiii. Special Assistant to the Secretary, Jessica Newman
- xiv. Special Assistant to the Secretary, Robert S. Eitel
- xv. Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Peter L. Oppenheim

Staff from OS, OLCA and OCTAE informed this office (FSC) that after a search of their files, they were unable to locate any documents that were responsive to your request.

You have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Department's FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The FOIA Public Liaison is responsible, among other duties, for assisting in the resolution of FOIA disputes. OGIS, which is outside the Department of Education, offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation.

They can be contacted by:

|        |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mail   | FOIA Public Liaison<br>Office of the Executive Secretariat<br>U.S. Department of Education<br>400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7C132<br>Washington, DC 20202-4500 | Office of Government Information Services<br>National Archives and Records Administration<br>8601 Adelphi Road, Room 2510<br>College Park, MD 20740-6001 |
| E-mail | <a href="mailto:robert.wehausen@ed.gov">robert.wehausen@ed.gov</a>                                                                                          | <a href="mailto:OGIS@nara.gov">OGIS@nara.gov</a>                                                                                                         |
| Phone  | 202-205-0733                                                                                                                                                | 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448                                                                                                                |
| Fax    | 202-401-0920                                                                                                                                                | 202-741-5769                                                                                                                                             |

Lastly, you have the right to appeal this determination. You must submit any appeal within 90 calendar days after the date of this letter. Using the services described above does not affect your right, or the deadline, to pursue an appeal. An appeal must be in writing and must include a detailed statement of all legal and factual bases for the appeal; it should be accompanied by a copy of this letter, the initial letter of request, and any documentation that serves as evidence or supports the argument you wish the Department to consider in resolving your appeal.

Appeals may be submitted using the on-line form available at  
[www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf).

Appeals can also be submitted by:

E-mail: [EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov)  
Fax: 202-401-0920  
Mail: Appeals Office  
Office of the Executive Secretariat  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ 7W106A  
Washington, DC 20202-4500

If you have any questions, please contact the FSC at (202) 401-8365 or via email at [EDFOIAMANAGER@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAMANAGER@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

*Sandra Lewandowski*

Sandra Lewandowski  
Government Information Specialist  
Office of the Executive Secretariat