

LIBERTY JUSTICE CENTER

October 17, 2025

Via Email

Ms. Christy Graham, General Counsel Dorchester School District Two 815 South Main Street Summerville, SC 19483

Dear Ms. Graham,

Thank you for your September 26 response, which acknowledges that "parents are permitted to inspect and review [test and assessment] materials, including their student's individual responses, at the school site."

Unfortunately, the access described in your letter is inconsistent with our client's experience. According to Mrs. Cronemeyer, she has repeatedly been denied meaningful opportunity to review her daughter's completed math tests and quizzes and has been told that there is either a district "policy" or "practice" that bars access to completed assessments. Consider the following examples:

- At a February 2025 meeting with the teacher, guidance counselor, and Vice Principal—at which Mrs. Cronemeyer expected to have the opportunity to review her daughter's tests—the prohibition was described as a "policy" from the Superintendent's office. The tests were not provided for review at this meeting, although a follow-up was promised to allow in-office viewing.
- At an April 10, 2025, follow-up meeting, our client was given a limited in-office review. During this review, access to the material was constrained to a teacher-controlled slideshow on a smartboard, at the teacher's pace, with reiterated reminders that there was insufficient time to see everything. Mrs. Cronemeyer could not independently examine the tests, navigate items, or confirm instructions and scoring.
- In May 2025, access was given to several assessments, but ten more remained unavailable.
- At the July 17, 2025, School Board Townhall meeting, Assistant Superintendent Katie Barker clarified that the prohibition is "practice" not a policy. After the August 11, 2025, meeting, Ms. Barker told our client that "under no circumstances will you ever be allowed to see those tests."

- On August 19, 2025, this year's Algebra 2 Honors teacher stated that parents would not have access to assessments pursuant to district policy.
- Our client has requested—and still not been provided access to—the following assessments from her daughter's Geometry Honors class: the tests for units 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10; the quizzes for unit 8.1–8.3, and 10; and the final quiz. Mrs. Cronemeyer still wants to review these assessments to ensure any gaps in her daughter's understanding have been corrected.

These experiences—rushed and controlled reviews, refusal to disclose correct answers, selective access, and changing explanations—have not resulted in meaningful access under FERPA. To resolve this matter, we are asking the district to confirm that the following will be distributed as guidance to school staff in writing:

- All completed tests and quizzes—including district "common assessments"—will be available for inspection upon request within a reasonable timeframe.
- When feasible without compromising test security, the district will provide copies or secure digital access. If the district declines to provide copies to parents, it will offer reasonable in-person alternatives that still allow thorough review.
- If in-person review is required, the review will allow for adequate time, with both questions and responses available together, and not limited to a teacher-controlled slideshow.
- Staff will not rush parents and will provide explanations and interpretations of records, including explanations of incorrect responses, as required by 34 C.F.R. § 99.10(c).

Thank you again for your response and acknowledging Mrs. Cronemeyer's FERPA rights. We look forward to working with the district to promptly and constructively resolve these remaining concerns.

Respectfully,

Jesse Leon jleon@ljc.org

cc:

Charles Daugherty, Superintendent, Katie Barker, Assistant Superintendent, Ashley Wimberly, Chair, Board of Trustees, Jamey Cronemeyer,