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1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT				
	FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA				
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	KHADIDJA ISSA, : 5:16-cv-03881-EGS				
3	Plaintiff, : PHILADELPHIA, PA				
	vs. :				
4	:				
	THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF :				
5	LANCASTER, : August 18, 2016				
	Defendant. : 2:11 p.m.				
6					
	TRANSCRIPT OF PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION HEARING				
7	BEFORE THE HONORABLE EDWARD G. SMITH				
	UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE				
8					
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PROCEEDINGS

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2 EXAMINATION OF HELAINE W. MARSHALL CONTINUES

3 | - - -

- 4 A. So at McCaskey they interact with students on the soccer fiend. They interact with them at, you know, at other
- 6 times during the day and they interact in meaningful ways. So
- 7 -- so in terms of what we know people need to -- to learn a
- 8 | language which is exposure and interaction I feel as though --
- 9 I know that at Phoenix the exposure and interaction was not
- 10 effective whereas at McCaskey it would be.
- 11 Q. So in part it it's that they haven't grouped the
- 12 | population alone by them -- by themselves to learn and in
- addition the particular model that they're using in terms of
- 14 | teaching content is in your opinion not correct?
- 15 A. That's right.
- 16 Q. Okay. In your professional opinion is the program, the
- 17 | Phoenix Program informed by an educational theory recognized
- 18 as sound by experts in the field or a legitimate experimental
- 19 | strategy?
- 20 A. No. It was not.
- 21 Q. And you -- and why is that?
- 22 A. Because for this population, now accelerated I am not
- 23 | speaking to accelerated credit recovery per se, I'm saying for
- 24 | SLIFE [ph] right? So for SLIFE it is -- it is
- 25 contraindicated. It is the opposite of what they need. They

- 1 | need a slow start and it's interesting, because I was hearing
- 2 | yesterday about a possibility of bridge mentioned -- people
- 3 mentioned bridging from the Phoenix and then go to McCaskey
- 4 actually that doesn't make sense to me --
- 5 | Q. And why -- why would that not be appropriate?
- 6 A. Because they need to start with the -- with the slower,
- 7 the foundation, get the foundation set and then after
- 8 | they're -- after they're comfortable with English and they've
- 9 | caught up with the content then if you want to try and
- 10 | accelerate, put them in summer school, put them in extended,
- 11 | you know, add more, add more to their program and really move
- 12 | them through. I think they have a good shot, but it
- 13 doesn't -- the reverse doesn't make -- doesn't sound like a
- 14 | plan to me. I just wanted to add that, because I did hear
- 15 that yesterday.
- 16 Q. And as part of your assessment did you consider whether
- 17 | the program and practices at Phoenix are reasonably calculated
- 18 to effectively implement their chosen program?
- 19 A. Okay. I'm sorry, I'm -- I'm -- [indiscernible].
- 20 Q. Take your time?
- 21 | A. Sorry everyone. Okay. So let's say you have a
- 22 | program, you know, you've got it, it's on paper, I get it,
- 23 that's just the program, but you have to make sure that the
- 24 way you're implementing the program is -- is strong enough to
- 25 give it every possibility of working; right. So I did not

- 1 | find that in the case of the program at Phoenix.
- 2 | Q. I'd like to --
- THE COURT: Can I interrupt? But you did find
- 4 | it in the program at the international school at McCaskey?
- THE WITNESS: At McCaskey -- at McCaskey? Yeah.
- 6 McCaskey, but -- yeah.
- 7 THE COURT: And you said only good things about
- 8 the program McCaskey?
- 9 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 10 THE COURT: If they're doing it right?
- 11 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 12 THE COURT: Okay. I'm sorry. You may proceed.
- 13 THE WITNESS: Yes. Yes. I -- I do have
- 14 information on McCaskey and how they're implementing their
- 15 program.
- 16 THE COURT: It sounds to me like you're very
- 17 | impressed with the program the School District has
- 18 establishes.
- 19 THE WITNESS: Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes.
- 20 BY MS. MCINERNEY:
- 21 Q. If we could turn to -- to exhibit 74 which is in day
- 22 two.
- 23 A. You've got me -- you just want my arms to be stronger.
- MS. MCINERNEY: May I approach, Your Honor?
- THE COURT: Certainly counselor.

- 1 THE WITNESS: Okay. 72. All right. I'm there.
- 2 BY MS. MCINERNEY:
- 3 Q. Okay. It's 74?
- 4 A. Oh, 74.
- 5 Q. I apologize if I said 72?
- THE COURT: No, you said 74.
- 7 MS. MCINERNEY: Okay.
- 8 BY MS. MCINERNEY:
- 9 Q. What is this?
- 10 A. Right. This is Pennsylvania.
- 11 Q. I'm sorry. It is educating students with limited
- 12 | English proficiency and English language learners.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Do you know what this is?
- 15 A. Yes, this is the guidance -- this is the guidance from
- 16 | the State of Pennsylvania.
- 17 Q. And if we could turn to the forth page of the document
- where it references planned instruction and academic content
- 19 areas.
- 20 A. The pages aren't numbered, but okay.
- 21 Q. Yes. I know.
- 22 A. All right.
- 23 Q. It --
- 24 A. Got it.
- 25 Q. It mentions here that an instructional program must

provide English language learners with meaningful
comprehensible access to instruction in all content areas
required by Pennsylvania Academic Standards. And it also
references what those academic standards are. Is that fairly
standard in other states as well that you would look at the
ability of a language instruction program to support students
to access whatever the academic requirements are in that

A. Yes, because they're in school, they're not -- they're not in a language school they're in school and they need -- they need the content areas, yes.

particular state?

Q. And on the page previous to that if you could just flip that over, it also mentions under planned instruction for English language acquisition classes, it says the direct English language instruction may not take place during other content classes. What -- what does that mean?

A. All right. So direct English instruction means that you're focused on the language, the grammar, the pronunciation and vocabulary, you're -- you're not necessarily teaching one of the content areas. So the reverse is true as well. When you're teaching a content you're teaching a content area although you bring the language in to support it, it's what I was saying when I was saying sheltered, it's primarily a content course and you are using language to help access the content as opposed to per se teach the language. That's what

- 1 | they're trying to get at there.
- 2 | Q. And in evaluating the practices that were used at
- 3 Phoenix to implement its program, what kinds of documents did
- 4 you look at that were provided by the School District?
- 5 A. Okay.
- 6 Q. And you can refer, if it's helpful to --
- 7 A. It's helpful.
- 8 Q. -- exhibit 82 which lists --
- 9 A. I looked is at so many documents.
- 10 | Q. Okay.
- 11 A. Okay. And so the list of documents is somewhere here.
- 12 I'm sorry, is that okay.
- MS. MCINERNEY: May I approach?
- 14 THE WITNESS: I looked at.
- THE COURT: I'm [indiscernible].
- 16 THE WITNESS: I looked at many, many, many
- 17 documents. Right. There we go. Okay.
- 18 BY MS. MCINERNEY:
- 19 Q. So what types of documents did you look at in order to
- 20 assess what the practices were at Phoenix?
- 21 | A. Well, I looked at the instructional services matrix
- 22 | that we talked about. I looked at the -- I looked at the --
- 23 | the -- I'm trying to see what exactly you're try ing to see
- 24 here.
- 25 | Q. And if you just want to reference documents relating to

- 1 their instruction program.
- 2 A. I mean, I look at the -- I looked at the Phoenix
- 3 student handbook certainly. I mean, that told me about what
- 4 | was going on at Phoenix. I looked at the grant proposal that
- 5 they wrote, the extended day program that they wrote. And
- 6 then in addition to those there were some other forms and
- 7 documents that I looked at that I only saw as blank forms, but
- 8 not filled in later, but I don't know if they actually used
- 9 those forms, so.
- 10 | O. Okay. Could you tell us what you found when you were
- 11 | assessing the program to determine what practices they're
- 12 utilizing and whether it's effective to support their chosen
- 13 | instructional model?
- 14 A. Okay. So what I looked at was when -- what -- when you
- 15 want to see if a program is supported you start with staffing.
- 16 | So I looked at staff.
- 17 | O. And what did that disclose?
- 18 A. Well, the first was to see how many highly qualified
- 19 ESL teachers they had, okay. So when I -- when I was first
- 20 introduced to the documents there was an indication there was
- 21 one ESL teacher, Ms. Ortiz who is certified ESL and I found
- 22 that there were 90 ESL students.
- 23 Q. ELL. English language learners?
- 24 A. English language learners, right. Subsequently there
- 25 was information provided in a survey which I believe must be

1 on this -- on this list that indicated that there were

2 | additional certified ESL teachers, okay. So I looked at the

-- the staffing and then I had to look at their -- their case

4 load and how they were spending their time, because when you

5 see an ESL teacher listed, this is an ESL teacher you want to

know, well, you know, okay. They're -- that means they have

7 ESL certification, but are they spending their day teaching

8 | direct ESL? Or how are they spend their -- their actual day?

9 So -- so I was able to determine first of all one of the --

one of the teachers listed as ESL is a Spanish teacher.

- 11 | O. A Spanish teacher.
- 12 A. Yes. And Spanish is a foreign language, world language

13 see it's possible that person was certified in ESL also, I

14 | mean, I'm certified in as you know from before in language and

ESL, but I -- it was not clear whether that person was

16 | teaching ESL or teaching Spanish.

17 Q. Okay.

3

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15

18 A. So that was one little -- and the other person listed

19 | was listed as a Social Studies teacher, so again I'm -- I'm --

20 | I'm thinking that that person teaches Social Studies as at

21 | least part of their load not necessarily just direct

22 instruction and the other than was another teacher whose name

23 was listed and then later on transcripts I saw that that

24 person teaching communication arts which is I think we've

25 talked about that the other -- or earlier today is the English

- 1 | class, not ESL, so it said to me that as far as full-time ESL
- 2 | that's all I'm teaching this is my job there still is only one
- and that the others may be teaching ESL but I didn't know
- 4 | how -- how many hours of their schedule it was. So it was --
- 5 | so staffing became -- became a question, you know, in my mind
- 6 in terms of that.
- 7 | Q. Were you concerned that there was insufficient staffing
- 8 | for the number of English language learners at Phoenix?
- 9 A. Yes. When you consider the support that would be
- 10 | needed for structured English emersion, yes.
- 11 Q. And why is that?
- 12 A. Because these students were placed in with native
- 13 speakers in a classroom being taught by someone without an ESL
- 14 credential.
- 15 | Q. And how do you know that? How do you know that they
- 16 were in classes taught by someone who did not have ESL
- 17 certification?
- 18 A. Because we were given a list of the -- of the teacher
- 19 who did have ESL certification.
- 20 Q. Did you review student records that were --
- 21 A. Yes, I did.
- 22 | Q. And were those student records of the particular
- 23 | plaintiffs in this case?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Okay. And what else did you review?

- 1 | A. Okay. Also in addition to that I took a look at
- 2 [indiscernible] and there's something else in terms of
- 3 | staffing that I wanted -- before we move on I'm trying to
- 4 | think if I -- if I wanted to talk about something besides.
- 5 MS. O'DONNELL: Your Honor, I'm going to object
- 6 to the witnesses.
- 7 | THE COURT: Yes, counselor.
- 8 MS. O'DONNELL: I'm going to object to this
- 9 answer. I'm not even sure that it's really an answer, but she
- 10 | seems to be up there pondering what her next subject matter
- 11 might be.
- 12 THE COURT: I'll sustain the objection.
- 13 MS. MCINERNEY: Yeah. I will ask another
- 14 question.
- 15 THE WITNESS: Okay. Sorry. Okay.
- 16 BY MS. MCINERNEY:
- 17 | Q. Did you consider any intake practices? How they assess
- 18 | students when they first arrive?
- 19 A. Yes. Yes. You want to -- you want to make sure that
- 20 you're intake procedures are comprehensive and cover all of
- 21 | the bases in terms of assessing the students as they come in.
- 22 Q. And what did you find?
- 23 A. What I found was that they were given the Wisconsin
- 24 aptitude test and that they all scored at a -- at an entry
- level, but that I would've expected that there would've been

- 1 more of a systematic analysis of their prior education so that
- 2 | we would know exactly what -- what their gaps might have been
- and what they might have needed and instead I saw some brief
- 4 comments I believe for Khadidja, I saw seems to have no formal
- 5 | education [indiscernible].
- 6 | Q. The documents that seems?
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 | Q. Okay.
- 9 A. And then it -- for Qasin no computational skills, but
- 10 | it was more of -- of a -- it seemed like it was not -- there
- 11 | was not a particular form that was being filled out or a
- 12 particular assessments that were being given it was more of an
- informal understanding of their background.
- 14 | Q. And looking at exhibit 19 which is in tab one can you
- 15 | identify what that is?
- 16 A. Yeah, this is the -- this is the Phoenix Handbook.
- 17 Q. Can you speak into the microphone?
- 18 A. This is the Phoenix Handbook.
- 19 Q. So did you review the Phoenix Handbook when you
- 20 considered the policies that are in place at the school?
- 21 A. Yes, I did, yeah.
- 22 | Q. And what was your conclusion with respect to various
- 23 | policies in place at Phoenix and how that might impact the
- 24 implementation of the instruction model?
- 25 A. Could you -- can you repeat the question? When you say

the instructional model are you speaking of the accelerated
recovery model?

Q. Yes. I'm speaking about all of it, yes?

2.1

A. Okay. Well, it seemed -- it seemed to me when I read this what struck me was that the school is designed for second chance students, students who have been through the system, I heard this morning someone, I think it was one of the witnesses mentioning falling behind, needing more credit and trying to recover credit and it's important to perform with SLIFE they're not falling behind, it's not as if they've been in this country all these years and they haven't accumulated credits, we're not remediating, we're teaching them for the first time and so it seems to me this approach is -- is not designed -- it's not designed for this type of student.

The other thing that struck me was that the goals in addition to credit recovery had to do with behavior and there was an underlying assumption that students who attended this school were in some way antisocial or needed behavior adjustment and these are newcomers, they -- they may not be refugees and they may or may not have had, you know, stress and trauma, but they are brand new to the country and for them from day one to be put in a situation where there made to feel that they need to adjust their behavior, I mean, they do in a way, because it's a new country and what we consider polite other cultures consider rude and, you know, there's a lot of

- 1 cultural negotiating that goes on.
- 2 Q. Right.
- A. But -- but in any case this was -- this did not seem
- 4 | appropriate to me.
- 5 Q. Looking at page 14 of the document that discusses the
- 6 seven levels of redirection it talks about positive group
- 7 | pressure, learning rules or negative, can you talk to us about
- 8 how that would impact students who are SLIFE and if in any way
- 9 | that would impact learning?
- 10 A. Well, I think what -- what it encouraged was
- 11 | for them to feel marginalized in a sense. They already don't
- 12 | completely fit in and then to have these different levels of
- 13 discipline make them feel kind of defensive and nervous not
- 14 because of that as a personality thing of theirs, but simply
- 15 because of the environment, they're put in --
- 16 Q. Does that have any impact on their academics or their
- 17 | ability to learn?
- 18 A. Yes, because culture -- how you acculturate to your new
- 19 culture is tied very closely to your language acquisition.
- 20 Q. In what way?
- 21 A. Yes. So that what we have is that if you're being made
- 22 to feel marginalized, discriminated against you're kind of
- 23 | forced to have a -- you make a choice, either you reject the
- 24 | new culture and just go into yourself with your own native
- 25 language and culture where you're safe or you abandon your

original culture and say, oh, I'm just going to give it all up

- 2 and become, you know, like these -- these people and
- 3 Americanized, but what really works well and what the
- 4 | literature says about bicultural is that people who can
- 5 maintain they culture, not assimilate completely, maintain
- 6 | their culture, become acculturated, become bicultural, learn
- 7 | English better and do better in school in general.
- 8 We're not in the days of assimilation, the melting pot,
- 9 | everybody's going to blend and be the same, this is a diverse
- 10 | society now and we value other cultures, so.
- 11 Q. And how do the policies at Phoenix particularly impact
- 12 | students who are SLIFE?
- 13 A. Well, I think that they -- I think that they -- they
- make them feel that they're not -- that they're not going to
- 15 be accepted, that they're going to be, you know, the business
- about the shirts and the different colored shirts, I mean,
- 17 that kind of thing seemed to bother them that that the other
- 18 students were going to be treating them a certain way because
- 19 of the -- the shirt that they were wearing and that sort of
- 20 thing and what we have to do is we have to look at the context
- 21 they came from, I mean, they came from very, very stressful
- 22 situations and here they are being put in another situation
- where they're trying to figure out this system and where do
- they fit in it and what are they doing wrong or not, you know,
- what is it that their place and a sense of belonging, bet back

- again to the hierarchy of needs, they need to feel that they
- 2 belong and if you feel that you don't fit in for starters it's
- 3 | much harder for you to focus and pay attention to your
- 4 learning and learn a brand new language and learn all the
- 5 content that they need to learn.
- 6 Q. And as you reviewed the policies at Phoenix did -- were
- 7 you aware of the no homework practice?
- 8 A. Yeah I, yeah. See, to me, if I had to pick, I mean, I
- 9 -- I do feel strongly about the --
- MS. O'DONNELL: I'm going to object again to
- 11 | the --
- 12 THE COURT: Yes counselor.
- 13 | MS. O'DONNELL: -- I'm going to object to the
- 14 | witness' answer. There -- there really wasn't a question and
- 15 | the answer that she's giving is not responsive to the
- 16 question.
- 17 THE COURT: Counselor response.
- 18 MS. O'DONNELL: If there was a question.
- 19 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.
- 20 THE COURT: Your response.
- 21 MS. MCINERNEY: Your Honor, I do believe that
- 22 she was going to give an answer that would be responsive to
- 23 the question.
- 24 THE COURT: Very well. The objection is
- 25 overruled. You can raise it again if the answer is not

1 responsive.

- THE WITNESS: Okay. If I were going to pick one
- 3 of the most important parts of Phoenix that -- that I reacted
- 4 to when I first learned about Phoenix it would be the no
- 5 homework policy.
- 6 BY MS. MCINERNEY:
- 7 Q. And why is that?
- 8 A. I spoke earlier about exposure. In order to learn a
- 9 language you need maximum exposure to that language. It has
- 10 to be meaningful exposure; right. These students as they
- 11 mentioned use English during the school day. When they're
- 12 leaving the school, they're going home, they're using their
- 13 | native language. They're new to the country. If they have to
- 14 | leave English at the door of the school they're not going to
- 15 be reinforcing what they had learned that day and they're not
- 16 going to be furthering their English. And it's very important
- for them to be able to take work home to be able to revisit
- 18 | what they've learned especially in a situation where they
- 19 weren't sure of what it was that they were learning, but even
- 20 | if it was, say at a school like McCaskey they would still need
- 21 | to go home and revisit the material, make sure they
- 22 understand --
- 23 | Q. And why is that important?
- 24 A. Well, it's important because we want them to learn
- 25 | faster and I -- actually it seems to me that Phoenix is

1 slowing them down by not giving them homework. It's retarding 2. their progress by not giving them homework because they could 3 learn faster if they could take work home, because that helps them remember, you know, you come back the next day, you have 4 to remember what did we do yesterday and two steps back to one 5 6 step forward, so it's really retarding their progress to not 7 give them homework, not accelerating their progress, so they're not even meeting their own need by the no homework 9 policy. Yes.

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- And when you interviewing students and you had mentioned that you also had interviewed a parent, were there any other practices that were -- that were something that you assessed and you considered in whether they were implementing the program appropriately?
- Α. Okay. So when we talk about implementing the program it's also very important that parents be involved in decision-making and it seemed -- when I -- when I talked to the parents they express the fact that they -- they didn't understand completely what they were being -- what the options were that there were different programs that were possible for their students and for their children, rather and that it wasn't clear to them and I think it's very important that they participate in these -- I understand that they were told, but still they need to be able to participate in a conversation about where their child will be placed and understand the

- 1 | implications of that decision and why that decision was being
- 2 | made and there were reasons why that decision was being made,
- 3 but apparently they were not clear on why that decision was
- 4 | made to put them in Phoenix.
- 5 | Q. What did you -- what did you learn that indicated that
- 6 | they weren't -- that they didn't know -- that they didn't
- 7 | learn why their children were being placed in a program?
- 8 A. Well, we -- we asked them, you know, do you -- do you
- 9 know why --
- 10 | Q. Did you learn any information regarding interpretation
- 11 or translation services?
- 12 A. That they were -- they were not given -- they were
- 13 given appropriate interpretation services.
- 14 Q. And what about did you learn anything with regard to
- 15 | the students that you interviewed relating to that topic?
- 16 A. Sometime -- in some cases I can't recall exactly which
- 17 | students right now, but in some cases the students also had to
- 18 | provide their own interpreter there was no school interpreter
- 19 it's my understanding that the school is to provide an
- 20 interpreter or a phone interpreter that you can call.
- 21 | Q. And as part of your assessment did you consider any
- 22 grading policies? Did you look at student records?
- 23 A. Yes, I looked at the -- I looked at the transcripts of
- 24 the students, yes.
- 25 Q. And what were you conclusions based on that review?

- 1 A. Well, it was -- it was a case by case. I looked very
- 2 | carefully at each student. I looked at their grade, each
- 3 | semester in each subject and I found -- well, I found, I had
- 4 about an overall conclusion, but then each student is in a
- 5 different situation.
- 6 0. What was your overall conclusion?
- 7 A. The overall conclusion and I did, I heard the testimony
- 8 | here in court, but I also interviewed each student and I'm an
- 9 ESL teacher, I've been an ESL teacher for many years and I --
- 10 I was interacting with the students and each one of them
- 11 | need -- really did need an interpreter and it was -- it was my
- 12 | impression when I looked at the transcripts that the grades on
- 13 | the transcripts and the students that I met it didn't appear
- 14 | to me that those transcripts would be a reflection of mastery
- 15 of the classes that were taught double time with mainstream
- 16 teachers and mainstream students. So that was overall.
- 17 | Q. I'd like to direct your attention to day one exhibit
- 18 | 15.
- 19 A. Okay. Yes.
- 20 Q. Now, you said in your report that you were concerned
- 21 that students were being promoted and graduated without
- 22 ensuring mastery of both the language and the content.
- 23 A. Right.
- Q. Can you look at LSD35 which is the student's transcript
- of the student Khadidja Issa?

- 1 | A. Yes.
- 2 \ Q. And what if anything did you learn by reviewing that
- 3 transcript?
- 4 A. Okay. Now, I need to be back to the word access. This
- 5 is -- this is very interesting because this is the meaning of
- 6 access in that she was not being placed in content courses.
- 7 So if we look here she did have communication arts, but then
- 8 | she -- she had her ESL class, she has international school ESL
- 9 it says and then she has skills prep, general art, fitness,
- 10 counseling all right. She was not given content area classes.
- 11 | That's the first thing I noticed before I even look at the
- 12 grades.
- 13 | O. So her one content class would ve been communication
- 14 arts?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Are you familiar with what Skills Prep is?
- 17 A. My understanding and this has been a little difficult
- 18 | to nail down exactly, but my understanding is that Skills Prep
- 19 is a computer-based class that -- that students go through
- 20 during school to develop skills in a content such as math.
- 21 | Q. And did any of the students tell you any information
- 22 about that class?
- 23 A. They had that they walked in and they sat at the
- 24 | computer and did exercises.
- 25 | O. Okay.

- 1 | A. I believe it's adaptive, it's one of those programs
- 2 | whereas you go through you can go through faster or slower
- 3 depending on how well you answer questions is, you know, but
- 4 it was not an ESL version?
- 5 Q. And why is that a problem?
- 6 A. Well, they need -- they need interaction. Again,
- 7 | second language acquisition depends upon interaction. If
- 8 | they're going to be sitting at a computer it shouldn't being
- 9 during the school day. That's precious school day time. They
- 10 | need to interact with people during that time. That's very
- 11 important for them.
- 12 Q. Does that increase their ability to access information
- 13 to learn content?
- 14 A. Yes. Interaction is an important part as I said
- 15 getting back to the oral transmission, they learn best from
- 16 people not by sitting at a computer doing exercises.
- 17 | Q. So what else did you note about her transcript?
- 18 A. Well, what really struck me was after I looked at what
- 19 she was in then I looked at the grades. Now these are the --
- 20 | these are the final grades so she has these 5.5 credits which
- 21 | is what she was awarded and I looked and saw that except for
- 22 counseling an anomaly on the transcript which was a C the
- other grades are all A and A-, A and A-.
- 24 | O. And what was her class rank?
- 25 A. I'm sorry, what?

Q. Her class rank.

1

25

- A. Her class rank. Yes, that's her rank is 1 out of 84 students which I assume means she was first in her class.
- Q. And directing your attention to LSD339 in that same tab, tab 15, exhibit 15 what if anything did you learn from
- 6 this? First of all, what is it?
- 7 This is a worksheet. Reading A to Z. This is a worksheet designed for young children who are native speakers 8 9 of English. This is -- this is a worksheet to see if you can identify the words that begin with H, so it has pictures of 10 objects and some begin with H and some don't. What strikes me 11 12 about this and there are several things, but one thing that strikes me about it is first of all it's drawings and we know 13 14 and in fact the ESL materials that are used at -- at the 15 School District, you know, I did look at those, you want 16 photographs for SLIFE, because photographs are ambiguous. 17 Everyone knows when you see a photograph, you know what you're 18 looking at. Drawings can be misinterpreted and they're not 19 universal and that's a huge issue for SLIFE so I'm saying 20 that, but the biggest one is the one in the middle, because the one in the middle I realize that everyone isn't seeing it 2.1 right now, but it's a picture of a number of people and a dog 22 23 and hearts and the word that it's supposed to be illustrating is the word hug, but if you don't know the word hug that pitch 24

picture doesn't necessarily convey to you hug. So that's just

- 1 an example.
- 2 Q. You mentioned these materials are attended for native
- 3 English speakers?
- 4 A. Yeah.
- 5 Q. Why is that a problem?
- 6 A. It's a problem because they're culturally embedded and
- 7 | so the content -- the content assumes a familiarity so for
- 8 example the word hat has a picture of a very particular kind
- 9 of hat that is not the same kind of hat that would be a hat
- 10 | from the students that we met yesterday. It's a conventional
- 11 | man's, you know, formal hat with the band, that's -- that's a
- 12 | western, that's our kind of hat.
- 13 | Q. And are there resources available that are specifically
- 14 | tailored to English language learners?
- 15 A. Every year we have a convention, the [indiscernible]
- 16 convention meets every year and we have -- we meet at a
- 17 convention center, we have a huge ballroom of materials, ESL
- 18 | materials for all ages, all types of LSLIFE [ph] Non-SLIFE,
- 19 you know, all different types of Ls [ph] many different types
- 20 of materials all designed for ESL and there's no reason to
- 21 | ever for any reason, even the simple worksheet to use
- 22 something that's not for ESL.
- 23 | Q. And looking as LSD40.
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 Q. Is there any information that --

- 1 | A. Yes.
- 2 | Q. -- you gained from this?
- Yeah, now, this one is interesting because what we're 3 looking at here if you remember when I said the three legs of 4 the stool it's not just language and content, but it's all the 5 6 kinds of way we ask people to answer questions and the types 7 of questions we ask and the way we expect them to think in our system, our western style system so this is a matching 8 9 activity. What you're supposed to do is one side has sentences and the other side all mixed up in a different order 10 has pictures. Well, if you're not used to school certainly 11 12 not used to western style school matching is not a familiar 13 activity. Now, you can teach someone, say, okay, this is
- this and she was asked did you know what you had to do on this sheet and I believe again that she said something to the order of underline, underline the word, underline a word and I -- I

called matching and just do it, you know, draw the lines, but

it's interesting that yesterday, I believe Khadidja was shown

- 19 -- I don't believe that she fully comprehended although the
- 20 lines are here. So I wasn't in the room at the time and I
- 21 don't know how she got those lines, but she did also testify
- 22 that if she didn't know answers that people would help her
- with answers, I, you know, I don't know if that's
- 24 [indiscernible].

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25 Q. Can you look at LSD359?

- 1 A. Okay. Three --
- 2 Q. Yes, it starts with the words compare and contrast.
- 3 It's 359. It's in the same exhibit 15.
- $4 \mid A$. I'm getting there, yes. Yes, 359.
- Q. And this appears to be a narrative that was authored by
- 6 | Khadidja?
- 7 A. Right. The issue here is that we have to understand
- 8 | what reading is, so obviously she wrote it, it's her
- 9 | handwriting; okay. But -- but if she's asked to read it
- 10 either she can't read it which I believe yesterday she was
- 11 | asked if she could read it and I believe, I'm trying to
- 12 | recall, but I think that she said that she could not, but even
- if someone can read out loud, that's called decoding, you --
- 14 | it's possible for you very easily to copy -- copy something
- 15 | that's -- copy something from the board which she said she had
- 16 done and actually read it and not understand it and so in
- 17 order to know if someone understands something you do not ask
- 18 | them to read it aloud, because you can read aloud, if you know
- 19 the sound letter correspondences in a language you can
- 20 actually read something out loud and sound pretty good and
- 21 | have no idea what you're saying. I've seen it in 100
- 22 | classrooms, in ESL classrooms and they sound perfect and then
- 23 you turn to them and say, oh, tell us about what you just read
- and they're like, oh, that's different. Reading must be, what
- we call top down processing, meaning related, not bottom up

- 1 | which is just calling the words and you know, that's the issue
- 2 | that's going on here. She -- she doesn't have the
- 3 comprehension of it, yeah.
- 4 Q. And now I direct your attention to exhibit 48, again,
- 5 another student record.
- 6 A. 48.
- 7 | THE COURT: I'm sorry, counselor, which one?
- 8 MS. MCINERNEY: Exhibit 48, I believe it's in
- 9 day two.
- 10 BY MS. MCINERNEY:
- 11 Q. Looking at what's marked LSD72.
- 12 A. Oh, I'm sorry, I went to -- to the wrong, I apologize.
- 13 That's the tab 48.
- 14 Q. Yes.
- 15 A. Exhibit.
- 16 Q. Exhibit tab 48, it's LSD72, it's the student transcript
- 17 of Qasin Muhammad Hasan.
- 18 A. Oh, yes.
- 19 Q. And what did you learn from looking at this particular
- 20 record?
- 21 A. Well, what I learn is again, this is similar to what I
- 22 | said about Khadidja and I do have a point to make about both
- 23 of them. He is in -- he isn't in the communication arts like
- 24 | she was, but he's in something called intensive reading which
- 25 tells me right away that that there was an awareness that he

- needed help with reading. And he is in the ESL, the one period of ESL.
- Q. And was that true of all the student records that you reviewed that all of them had one period of ESL?
- 5 A. Yes, they all had that one period of ESL in common.
- 6 He's in that school, the school's prep, Skills Prep, he's in
- 7 the general art and the fitness and counseling. So here
- 8 again, I would say is someone who was not getting access to
- 9 content. And what I notice from this transcript and from
- 10 | Khadidja's that struck me was that what they really needed was
- 11 | not provided if they're trying to accelerate instruction they
- would put them in math, science and social studies, but they
- 13 | must have felt that they couldn't handle it and that's why
- 14 | McCaskey they wouldn't have been wasting their --
- 15 Q. I'm sorry.
- 16 A. I -- I was going to say that they wouldn't be spending
- 17 | time precious time not being in content classes. In McCaskey
- 18 | they would be in content classes from the very beginning.
- 19 Q. From an ESL perspective why is it problematic that he
- 20 | did not have content classes?
- 21 A. Because they have limited time to graduate and if
- 22 | they're trying to take high school and get through it they
- 23 | need as soon as possible to get started on content area and
- here is a whole time period where there's no progress
- 25 happening in the content area and so that's going to hold them

- 1 | back in terms of getting their work done in math, science and
- 2 | social studies and language arts for that matter, because in
- 3 his case he doesn't have communication arts.
- 4 | Q. Okay.
- 5 A. Okay.
- 6 Q. And if I can turn your attention to exhibit tab 46.
- 7 A. Exhibit 46.
- 8 Q. Drawing your attention to LSD186 student transcript of
- 9 | Van Ni Lang?
- 10 A. Van Ni, yeah. All right. And which number in 46?
- 11 Q. This would be 186. This is her student transcript.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And in this case was she taking content classes?
- 14 A. Yes, in this case she was in the science class. She
- 15 | was in the geometry class and she was in Modern United States
- 16 History.
- 17 Q. Okay. And if you were to look at LSD318 it says essay
- 18 questions.
- 19 A. What -- oh, I see there's a green sheet. Okay. All
- 20 | right. What number again? Sorry.
- 21 Q. It's 318.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And this is appears to be a narrative, an essay.
- 24 A. Right.
- 25 | Q. In reviewing this what did it disclose in light of

- 1 other records that you reviewed at first?
- 2 A. Yes, I know. In interviewing Van Ni Lang and in
- 3 hearing her testimony and with my background in language and
- 4 | ESL I would find it highly unlikely that she would been able
- 5 to write this material on her own and produce it on her own.
- 6 | I mean, it's -- it could be her handwriting as I said before,
- 7 you know, she can write it down, but, you know, we have here,
- 8 you know, the earth surface relatively low temperatures and
- 9 pressures and prime -- pressures primarily and metaphoric rock
- 10 | from -- it's just, yeah, very complex.
- 11 | Q. So this appears to be a sample from a science class and
- 12 | is --
- 13 A. Yes, science.
- 14 Q. -- her science class with someone who is trained in ESL
- 15 based on your review of staffing at the school?
- 16 A. The science class, no. The science teacher did not
- 17 | have ESL certification according to the information I was
- 18 provided.
- 19 0. So in order to communicate this kind of information
- 20 what would -- what would the teacher have to do?
- 21 A. This material here which is on geology so it would have
- 22 to be with visuals and videos. There's a lot of wonderful
- 23 | video material and you can even turn off the sound and you can
- 24 have the teacher narrate the video specially with geology it
- would be great, because they're talking about, you know, the

- 1 -- the interaction of the rocks over time and the layers that
- 2 form and so you can -- you can modify, that's a typical way to
- 3 | modify is to use a video and then the instructor modifies
- 4 language use, so that would be an example.
- 5 Q. And would you anticipate that in the McCaskey model
- 6 that the science teacher too would be able to provide
- 7 support --
- 8 A. Oh, I would fully expect that.
- 9 0. -- with the student?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. And looking at LSD192, what does this indicate?
- 12 It's dated January 1, 2016?
- 13 A. Okay. All right. So -- all right. What we're looking
- 14 at is a cartoon picture of people at a picnic and there's a
- 15 word bank with words for them to choose from and then
- 16 directions as to using the words and answering questions. And
- 17 | this is 6-1-16 and so this means that's -- it's June so she's
- 18 been in school for sometime and she came in as entering, all
- 19 right.
- 20 So what I notice here is that these sentences are very
- 21 | rudimentary, well, compared to totally different from what we
- 22 | just looked at actually. And so she says they are doing
- 23 picnic, the family is doing it, they are eating sandwich and
- 24 | watermelon, they are doing on grass. Okay. What I notice
- 25 | right away, I mean, we can talk a lot about this, but what I

notice right away is doing is used three out of the four times

- 2 | that is in the prompt, what are they doing, who is doing it,
- 3 so she's doing as opposed to using real verbs that describe,
- 4 | she's just using doing. And the eating which is a verb that
- 5 is descriptive is also in the prompt, what are they eating.
- 6 They are eating sandwich and watermelon, so -- so she's
- 7 clearly dependent upon the prompt to construct the sentences
- 8 and their -- and their very basic sentences.
- 9 I'd also like to add on that same point about the
- 10 matching, this is a very complex task and there were two other
- 11 students underneath this task nothing was written except did
- 12 | not understand, could not write anything, did not understand
- 13 and I would like to also add that that's not just about
- 14 language, what they might not have understood is what were
- 15 | they supposed to do? There's a picture. There are some words
- 16 written. There are some questions and you know, in our system
- we learn how to negotiate this type of task, but it's really
- 18 | quite complicated for someone who's coming new to the country
- 19 and is used to repeating and reciting.
- 20 Q. And could you look at exhibit tab 47 also in day two?
- 21 | And this would be the transcript --
- 22 A. Sui Hnem.
- 23 Q. Sui Hnem?
- 24 A. Yes. Which number, please?
- 25 Q. Forty-seven.

- 1 A. Well, I'm in 47, what number?
- 2 Q. Looking at LSD247.
- 3 A. All right, her transcript. Okay.
- 4 | Q. And what did you learn from reviewing this transcript?
- 5 A. Well, similarly she's in a mix. She's got science,
- 6 | she's got geometry, she's got history. Her -- well, actually,
- 7 | you know, looking at the grades what I recall striking to me
- 8 was that her, if we put history aside which might be a
- 9 | separate issue we might want to talk about, but -- but let's
- 10 look at her ESL class, B+, she he has a B+ with her ESL
- 11 teacher.
- 12 Q. And why is that significant?
- 13 A. Well, anyone can get a B+ h but the reason is -- okay.
- 14 The reason it's significant is her other grades are A and A-
- 15 | so you wouldn't, I mean, you wouldn't expect her to be getting
- 16 an A in science and an A in geometry, I mean, art, maybe,
- 17 | although Khadidja last -- yesterday showed extensive writing
- 18 answer from an art class, so art isn't just we think of art as
- 19 not writing, but they do read and write in art, but in any
- 20 case, most of this is A and A- and how can that be, she got a
- 21 B+ in ESL, it doesn't make, it doesn't make sense to me.
- 22 | O. And under transcript it reflects that she's taking a
- 23 geometry class?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 | Q. Is that a particular class that's difficult for student

- 1 | who are --
- 2 A. Well, you know --
- Q. -- entering?
- 4 | A. -- people -- see, here's the thing, there's a common --
- 5 a common sense that math, oh, ESL, they do math, it's numbers
- 6 | blah, blah, blah, but you know what and I have a whole
- 7 | training -- math is language, because first of all there are a
- 8 lot of word problems. Second of all, you always have to not
- 9 just show your work, but explain your work. You have to say,
- 10 how did you get your answer? I mean, some students don't like
- 11 that too much that they to do it, they just want to give their
- 12 | answer; all right. But language is intimately tied to math
- 13 | today. It didn't used to be decades ago, but today it is, so
- 14 | people don't realize how much language is in math class.
- 15 MS. MCINERNEY: Your Honor, could we take a
- 16 break?
- 17 THE COURT: Certainly. I notice this child
- 18 | ranked number 3 out of 84. The last child we didn't mention
- 19 was number 1 out of 56. Every one of these children seemed to
- 20 be in the very top of their class if the transcript is
- 21 | accurate.
- 22 THE WITNESS: Yes, Khadidja was 1 out of 84 and
- 23 | Sui Hnem is 3 out of 84.
- 24 THE COURT: We will stand in recess for 15
- 25 minutes.

1 DEPUTY CLERK: All rise.

2

3 (Whereupon, there was a recess in the proceeding from

4 | 3:02 p.m. to 3:17 p.m.)

5 | - - -

DEPUTY CLERK: All rise. United States District
Court is again in session. The Honorable Edward G. Smith
presiding.

THE COURT: You may be seated. Thank you. The Court is called to order. All part -- are you okay?

11 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

THE COURT: The Court is called to order. All parties previously present are once again present. The witness is on the witness stand. Counselor you may proceed with your direct examination.

16 MS. MCINERNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 BY MS. MCINERNEY:

- Q. Turning to exhibit tab 50, we're going to look at just
- one last group of student records. These concern the student
- 20 Anyem Dunia. And I'd like to draw your attention --
- 21 A. Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Yes.
- 22 | Q. -- to LSD118. And could you tell us what this document
- 23 is?

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- 24 A. This is an access test result.
- 25 | Q. And could you tell us what the Access Test is?

- 1 A. All right. The -- WEDA gives two different tests, one
- 2 | is for placement and -- and this is similar into other
- 3 companies, they gave an Access Test for placement and one for
- 4 achievement, so this is the achievement one.
- 5 0. And what does it measure?
- 6 A. It measures achievement in the four domains, listening,
- 7 | speaking, reading -- listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- 8 It does it individually and overall.
- 9 Q. And I draw your attention to the date on this document.
- 10 The date of February 5, 2015?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 | Q. Which was I believe around to time that this particular
- 13 student was enrolled, started school. What can you tells,
- 14 | what does this information disclose with regard to his English
- 15 | proficiency levels?
- 16 A. This actually struck me when I first saw it. This
- 17 pattern is not unusual for ESL students overall, but unusual
- 18 for SLIFE.
- 19 Q. And why is that?
- 20 A. Because his listening and speaking is a high level one
- 21 | and his reading is midlevel two. And his writing is an
- 22 admitted level three. So --
- 23 | O. And what is unusual about that?
- 24 A. Well, usually as we've discussed literacy is a weak
- 25 area for SLIFE, so their reading and writing is usually lower

- 1 | than their listening and speaking.
- 2 | Q. And would this student still be considered an entering
- 3 level student?
- $4 \mid A$. Well, his overall is a 2.4 and so that does put him in
- 5 | the level two emergent, okay. But he's still, you know, one
- 6 of the first two levels.
- 7 Q. Would he still be considered SLIFE a student with
- 8 limited and why is that?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 | Q. And why is that?
- 11 A. Yes, because -- yes, SLIFE is not a level. SLIFE is
- 12 based on your -- your grade, two grades behind -- we went
- 13 | through the definition of SLIFE, so it's not a level, you can
- 14 be a level two and be a SLIFE.
- 15 | Q. And would in your opinion, what is your opinion with
- 16 regard to what type of instructional program he should
- 17 receive?
- 18 A. I think that for a student like this entering for the
- 19 | first time even though his reading and writing would be
- 20 stronger than the others his listening and speaking is quite
- 21 | low. He needed -- he would have benefited, I believe from the
- 22 international school at the get-go when he first arrived.
- 23 Q. And looking at his transcript at LSD115, oh, by the
- 24 way, did you review the placement test for this particular
- 25 | student? Was there a placement test in his file?

- 1 A. There was a -- there was one page that indicated there
- 2 | was a placement but there was no name on it.
- 3 Q. Okay. So he may have been given the Access Test
- 4 instead of the placement test?
- 5 A. Yes, it did not appear that he was given the placement
- 6 test.
- 7 | Q. And is that important in any way?
- 8 A. Well, he's required -- he -- he should've received the
- 9 | placement test on arrival.
- 10 O. Would it have disclosed more information?
- 11 A. It's difficult to know what it would have disclosed.
- 12 We cannot say that, because --
- 13 | Q. Okay.
- 14 A. -- it wasn't administered.
- 15 Q. So looking at LSD115. We have discussed this
- 16 | previously in court with respect to the timeframe in which the
- 17 | student graduated from the Phoenix Academy, but if you -- did
- 18 | this particular document indicate anything to you with regard
- 19 to his acquisition of content relating to his classes? And I
- 20 draw you attention to the 12th grade year.
- 21 A. Yes. What struck me is his grades were -- went
- 22 | [indiscernible] precipitously down the 12th grade is down in
- 23 his grades are largely C- he even has a D+. He has some Bs,
- 24 but his Bs are in his ESL class. And he said, I believe that
- 25 he testified that he does like science and so he really wanted

- to understand the science, but it looks as though he did not do well in biology or chemistry at all or in communication
- 3 arts which is language based and the geometry was a D+ so.
- 4 Q. And what did your interview of him disclose with regard to his experience in school?
- A. Well, it was a very strange thing that he said, because when I asked him what was school -- what was it like going to school and what was he learning in his class -- classes, he said well, every day is the same. And I don't usually hear that, so that was -- that struck me as unusual. And I -- the only thing, I mean, I can't be sure exactly, because I wasn't
- understood because sometimes you tend to say, well, it's the

in the room with him, but what I'm wondering is how much he

- same if -- of course, it wasn't the same, the teacher's
- 15 teaching different things every day, so when someone says it's
- the same that gives you pause as to whether they were really
- 17 | following what was going on and then I see the grades.
- 18 Q. And looking at LSD360 --

12

- THE COURT: Can I interrupt you for just a moment, counselor?
- MS. MCINERNEY: Oh, I'm sorry.
- 22 THE COURT: Ma'am, on this student transcript it
 23 shows that Anyem is ranked 6 out of 107 and it shows transfer
 24 English and transfer math as 9th grade, do you know what that
- 25 means, transfer English and transfer math?

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1	THE WITNESS: I read an explanation of that just
2	last night.
3	THE COURT: Well, if you don't that's fine. I'm
4	sure someone from the school will know. And if you turn to
5	LSD088 on the same document.
6	THE WITNESS: Yes.
7	THE COURT: Did he discuss with you these
8	absences?
9	THE WITNESS: Yes, he talked about not going to
10	school, yeah.
11	THE COURT: So he did not go to school all of
12	these days which must be, I don't count them
13	THE WITNESS: Right.
14	THE COURT: there must be 30 absences there.
15	THE WITNESS: Yeah.
16	THE COURT: And yet he still graduated number 6
17	out of 107 in June even though he didn't even go to school?
18	Well, in May, alone there's one, two, three, four, five, six,
19	seven
20	THE WITNESS: Well, that's cumulative, right?
21	And look at his 9th grade. So that's pulling him up.
22	THE COURT: Okay.
23	THE WITNESS: I'm guessing.
24	THE COURT: That's a good guess. All right.
25	Excuse my interruption counselor, you may proceed.

- 1 THE WITNESS: But I understand what you're
- 2 saying, yes.
- 3 BY MS. MCINERNEY:
- 4 Q. I'm finished with that document.
- 5 A. Okay.
- 6 Q. And with this student's records. However, there is one
- 7 | indictment related -- in his file that relates to a
- 8 standardized test that he took. And if you look at 364, 365,
- 9 | it's actually difficult to read those, but I believe we have
- 10 another document which is actually exhibit tab 85 and that
- 11 | would be in the day two binder.
- 12 A. I need an assistant.
- 13 | Q. And this was in response to, this is some standardized
- 14 test scores.
- 15 A. All right. So you're -- you're directing me to tab 85.
- 16 Q. Eighty-five.
- 17 A. Oh, yes.
- 18 | Q. And what if anything did you learn from reviewing this
- 19 particular document?
- 20 A. Well, this -- this document although it isn't labelled
- 21 as far as what it refers to, it refers to math and reading
- 22 assessments, standardized assessments, is that what we're
- 23 | looking?
- 24 Q. Yes.
- 25 A. What number, 363?

- 1 | Q. It's 363, yes.
- 2 A. Yes. Okay. So if we're looking at -- are we looking
- at him Adon [ph] or everybody.
- 4 Q. Yes, just in general.
- 5 A. Just in general. Okay. These are standardized tests
- 6 that were given at two points in time a score one, score two
- 7 and then the grade level that that score equated to and the
- 8 academic level it equated it and the amount of growth and it
- 9 was done for math and it was done for reading.
- 10 Q. And in general where were the students scoring?
- 11 | A. Well, in general if we look at grade level we're saying
- 12 K which is kindergarten, Qasin did score to third grade in
- math and we see a 6th grade in math, the second score session
- 14 | for Sui Hnem. We also see no scores at all for two of the
- 15 students that were no scores at all entered NA, assuming NA is
- 16 not a score.
- 17 Q. And with respect to Anyem, there was one other document
- 18 | that did reveal some standardized test scoring for him that I
- 19 | thought was contained here, but it's not. If you could go to
- 20 tab 50 --
- 21 A. That's the Keystone --
- 22 | Q. -- one last time and to LSD117?
- 23 A. Okay. So, again the tab is?
- 24 Q. It's tab 50, exhibit 50?
- 25 A. Tab 50 and the --

- 1 | Q. LSD is 117. And up at the top it says test history, it
- 2 has the student's name?
- 3 A. Yes, this is the Keystone in -- but I believe he took
- 4 | it in biology, this is [indiscernible] it should be --
- 5 Q. And what did it reveal about his level in general, how
- 6 he scored on this? It noted -- I -- and a below basic?
- 7 A. All right. I'm just looking to see -- right, because
- 8 | the algebra has nothing, because you can take -- he only took
- 9 the biology on coming down here, okay.
- 10 Q. So where it says administrative performance level,
- 11 | name, on the right-hand side?
- 12 A. Yes I'm -- I'm not in a position to interpret these
- 13 numbers.
- 14 Q. Okay. Okay. But you concede that that's at least the
- 15 | level that was noted? So Dr. Marshall, can we turn now to
- 16 your assessment of the Phoenix Program. Did you consider
- 17 | whether the program is producing results indicating that
- 18 | language barriers confronting older immigrant students are
- 19 actually being overcome by Phoenix? Did you consider that
- 20 issue?
- 21 A. Yes, I did.
- 22 Q. And what was your conclusion?
- 23 A. My conclusion is that the program at Phoenix is not
- 24 overcoming the language barriers for this population.
- 25 Q. And what is the basis of your conclusion in that

- 1 regard?
- 2 A. Well, the fact that they are -- that they are still at
- 3 | lower levels of English and the transcript are telling us that
- 4 | they're not understanding what's going on in class.
- 5 | Q. When you evaluated programs in the past looking at
- 6 school language instruction ESL programming what kinds of
- 7 | factors do you consider? What do you analyze? What do you
- 8 look at?
- 9 A. Well, normally when you assess a program you first take
- 10 | a look at how well the students are doing. So you want to
- 11 look at their performance, right. So -- so I did look at the
- measures of performance that I could see.
- 13 | Q. And what measures of performance would you normally
- 14 look at to assess --
- 15 A. I would normally --
- 16 Q. -- a program?
- 17 A. I would look at -- I would look at the access scores
- 18 and I would try to find out whether there was growth, how
- 19 | they're moving through the levels, how quickly they're moving
- 20 through the levels based on where they started and where
- 21 | they're headed. And what -- what kind of distribution there
- 22 is within the levels in terms of the four skills and how far
- 23 | they're progressing in their four skills. And I would take a
- 24 look at how they're doing after they exit the ESL Program and
- 25 | I would take a look at how they're fairing in the mainstream

- 1 classes once their mainstreamed. And -- and just get a
- 2 general picture of their English achievement, that would be
- 3 the most important, but then when you -- okay.
- 4 | Q. So in large measure you would be relying on
- 5 | quantifiable data --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- that is specific to that program that you're
- 8 assessing?
- 9 A. Yes, absolutely.
- 10 Q. And did you have that kind of data to look at in this
- 11 | case?
- 12 A. Well, I did my best. What happened was I was given --
- 13 | I was given Access scores very detailed and giving variables
- 14 stretching, but they were not disaggregated by unfortunately,
- 15 | they were not disaggregated by Phoenix versus McCaskey. So
- 16 | there was actually a field that said Phoenix or McCaskey in
- 17 the raw data.
- 18 | Q. And how long was that the raw data that was available?
- 19 A. You mean how many pages?
- 20 Q. Yes.
- 21 A. Well, 924 pages.
- 22 | Q. And had there been any analysis by the School District
- 23 of that dat a?
- 24 A. Yes. Yes. There was an analysis that was presented in
- a PowerPoint that had been prepared and the -- I looked

- 1 | through -- I looked through that analysis looking for Phoenix
- 2 McCaskey and I didn't find it. I found that it was -- the
- data was broken down by as far as it was grade level they had
- 4 9th grade, 10th grade, you know, you could look by grade level
- 5 across the district. It was -- it was very robust in that
- 6 respect that they really did look at Access and it was
- 7 over time, it was more data than I was given data from 2013
- 8 | and 2015, the PowerPoint was based on 2010, 11, 12, 13, 14,
- 9 | 15, so -- so they, the -- the PowerPoint was based on more
- 10 years, but again, it didn't have Phoenix and McCaskey
- 11 separated.
- 12 Q. So there was no disaggregated data that they had
- 13 | provided --
- 14 A. No.
- 15 | Q. -- regarding the program at Phoenix?
- 16 A. No, none.
- 17 | Q. Okay. And what other measures would you look at?
- 18 A. Will, okay. Yeah. In addition to looking at the
- 19 Access data and the student performance I would look at
- 20 teacher effectiveness.
- 21 Q. And how would you evaluate that?
- 22 A. Well, it's very important not to have just people who
- are ESL certified, but to observe them periodically and have a
- 24 tool to do so, you need -- you need some kind of an
- observation tool and you need to do that regularly and meet

- 1 | with them and debrief with them and make sure that they are
- 2 using the appropriate methodology for the model that you're
- 3 using in your program.
- 4 Q. Was there any information or data provided by the
- 5 | School District relating to teacher performance or observation
- 6 or accountability?
- 7 A. I did find as I mentioned before there were -- there
- 8 were a number of documents provided in as, you know, forms and
- 9 then I looked for versions of those that had been filled out.
- 10 In the case -- there was an observation checklist of
- 11 | visitation checklist, it was -- it was rather brief, but it
- 12 | was a -- it was an observation sheet, but I couldn't find any
- 13 | that had been filled out. That was not provided to me. I
- 14 don't know that they exist or not.
- 15 | Q. You did -- you didn't have anything relating to
- 16 | Phoenix?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. So looking at exhibit tab 78?
- 19 THE COURT: Are your arms getting tired yet?
- 20 Are your arming getting tired [indiscernible]?
- 21 THE WITNESS: Yes, I recognize this document.
- 22 BY MS. MCINERNEY:
- 23 Q. And did you find any documents produced that related to
- 24 McCaskey of this nature?
- 25 A. Yes. This is an example of one of the documents that

- 1 arrived after I had submitted my -- my -- my report.
- 2 Q. And what is this?
- 3 A. So -- all right. So the -- the way -- the way it works
- 4 at -- at -- at Lancaster is that there are these checklists
- 5 | that the teachers fill out -- is there a problem?
- 6 MS. O'DONNELL: Your Honor, I'd like to make an
- 7 | objection to the documents --
- 8 THE COURT: Yes, counselor --
- 9 MS. O'DONNELL: -- that she's testifying that
- 10 were not included in her report. This would be new
- 11 | information to us as defense -- to me as defense counsel and
- 12 to my clients and so obviously we haven't had an opportunity
- 13 to prepare --
- 14 THE WITNESS: You gave it to us.
- 15 MS. O'DONNELL: -- to cross-examine her on that
- 16 on this.
- 17 THE COURT: Counselor.
- 18 MS. MCINERNEY: Your Honor, this is information
- 19 | that we requested repeatedly from the School District and they
- 20 belatedly produced this supplemental information after
- 21 deposition testimony had disclosed that it existed.
- 22 THE COURT: And can you make an offer of proof
- as to what you expect the witness to testify regarding this
- 24 information?
- MS. MCINERNEY: Yes. I anticipate that the

witness will testify that this is the single piece, the only page that was provided relating to accountability measures undertaken at Phoenix with regard to their ESL Program. There are many documents produced relating to McCaskey they are similar in nature, but this is the sole document that was produced that related to the ESL Program at Phoenix with regard to what was done to evaluate the program, what was done to provide observation.

THE COURT: Very well. The document was provided by the defense, was in the possession of the defense, the -- it does not appear as though there is going to be any unfair surprise with respect to this only because this goes right to the heart of what we've been talking about and is something that the defense had in its possession and it apparently was addressed during depositions?

MS. MCINERNEY: Yes.

MS. O'DONNELL: Your Honor, this is -- this is at tab, I believe it's the document that we're talking -- when we just reviewed --

THE COURT: ELL second marking period checklist, am I at the right page?

MS. MCINERNEY: It's one page and it's tab 78.

MS. O'DONNELL: Tab 78? And it was just a

matter of you're not --

2.

THE COURT: Oh, I might be in the wrong binder

Page 52
then. It's not day it two binder?
MS. MCINERNEY: It's day two, oh, yes. Four
THE COURT: And I have 78, it's titled ELL
second marking
THE WITNESS: That's the one.
THE COURT: Second marking period checklist.
MS. MCINERNEY: That's correct.
THE WITNESS: 441. 441.
THE COURT: Okay. And you are familiar with
this document?
THE WITNESS: Yes, I am.
THE COURT: And how did you become familiar,
ma'am.
THE WITNESS: It arrived.
THE COURT: As one of the documents
THE WITNESS: It was provided
THE COURT: that came after the
THE WITNESS: to me.
THE COURT: after your report was prepared?
THE WITNESS: Yeah.
THE COURT: All right. I'm going to
MS. O'DONNELL: Your Honor, our our tabs have
the it says ESL instruction, so this is matrix.
THE COURT: Oh okay. So we're on the different
page.

1 MS. MCINERNEY: Can I provide it to counsel?

- THE COURT: Can we make sure that Attorney
- 3 O'Donnell has this ELL Second Marking Period Checklist.
- 4 THE WITNESS: Okay. Oh, boy. Okay.
- 5 THE COURT: And that -- you're familiar with
- 6 that document, counselor.
- 7 MS. O'DONNELL: I am.
- 8 THE COURT: Okay. Very well, the objection is
- 9 overruled. You may proceed.
- 10 THE WITNESS: So in the original documents
- 11 provided by the School District of Lancaster there were blank
- 12 copies of the marking period checklist. First marking period,
- 13 second, third and final. And I didn't have any examples of
- 14 | them in their filled out form until as I said subsequent. So
- 15 | what I received was quite a number of checklists by teachers
- 16 and I looked through each one and I saw McCaskey and I was
- 17 looking for Phoenix and I did find one from Phoenix and it's
- 18 | filled out by Ms. Ortiz. It's for the second marking period
- 19 1-13-14.
- 20 BY MS. MCINERNEY:
- 21 | Q. And turning to exhibit 63, I'm sorry, it is --
- 22 A. Tabs.
- 23 | Q. -- 64. Again that is in the day two binder and it's
- 24 tab 64.
- 25 A. Okay.

- 1 Q. It is ESL Department Internal Review.
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. And it says Phoenix 2014-15.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 | Q. And if you go to what is marked LSD296 this appears to
- 6 be some kind of an internal review of the program at Phoenix,
- 7 | the ESL Program at Phoenix. And going to LSD296 what does it
- 8 | say about caseload?
- 9 A. It says we have a total of four ESL teachers. Read the
- 10 | whole -- read it?
- 11 O. Mm-hmm.
- 12 A. One is the social studies teacher, the other is the
- 13 | Spanish teacher -- a -- a Spanish teacher, Ms. Weathers and
- 14 | myself and myself refers to Ms. Ortiz, because she was the one
- 15 | who filled that out.
- 16 | Q. So we're not going to go through the information in all
- of these documents --
- 18 A. Okay.
- 19 Q. -- I just have a few questions for you. Did you
- 20 believe that this document was an effective evaluation of the
- 21 | Phoenix Program and whether it is successful in overcoming
- 22 | language barriers?
- 23 A. No, I don't. It looks more to me like a -- the
- 24 | starting outline of what would be a report and it also doesn't
- 25 provide quantitative data on the progress of students or an

- 1 analysis of that data.
- Q. And with regard to its evaluation of caseload and ESL
- 3 | teachers, I think we've talk about the fact that the -- a
- 4 | Spanish teacher would be world language teacher rather than
- 5 ESL, it's not an ESL instructor?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. Also and --
- 9 Q. And what else did you think was missing from this type
- 10 of evaluation?
- 11 A. Right. Well, it's -- it's professional -- if you look
- 12 under professional development there should be -- there should
- actually be a more mapped out formalized presentation of the
- 14 professional development that is offered and to whom it's
- 15 offered and when it's offered and what the topics are.
- 16 | Instead it talks about tips on how to meet the needs of our Ls
- and it says that all members -- all staff members are
- 18 | encouraged to contact me or Ms. Weathers in reference to
- 19 questions and -- and I would expect something more in that
- 20 section for sure.
- 21 Also it really doesn't indicate culturally
- 22 responsiveness. We haven't talked much about that, but the
- 23 question on page -- on page -- on 296 under demographics
- 24 actually number five there was a question on the form, the
- 25 question is missing here, but it was on the form, the prior

- 1 | form, this, what are we looking at? Which year? Because the
- 2 other year actually the -- the -- the following year they had
- 3 | that question listed as to what are they doing to make their
- 4 | program culturally responsive and the answer here is very
- 5 | minimal and it doesn't really address in a substantive way
- 6 what it means to be culturally responsive and that's extremely
- 7 important for SLIFE as one of the main areas that SLIFE need
- 8 is culturally responsive environment.
- 9 Q. And drawing your attention to exhibit tab 65, there's
- 10 another, not 65, I apologize. It is 66. It looks like this
- 11 | is the following year and there was another review that was
- 12 | conducted?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Can you -- can you just tell us having reviewed all of
- 15 | these documents whether this particular way of assessing a
- 16 | language program is consistent with what you have seen in
- 17 | either school districts?
- 18 A. No. It -- it -- it has the categories, but the
- 19 information in each category is suggestive and broad brush and
- 20 is not -- is not robust it doesn't really tell enough about
- 21 | the program to know whether it's being effective.
- 22 | Q. And does it provide -- does it rely on any -- and it
- 23 | doesn't provide quantifiable data?
- 24 A. No. No. The main -- well, yes. It -- as we said with
- 25 the Access scores there's no -- there's no real breakdown here

- 1 of the Access scores and how the students are doing.
- 2 Q. Now I understand that you didn't have the opportunity
- 3 that the School District itself does not disaggregate the data
- 4 | with regard to Phoenix that would be an impossible task to do.
- 5 | Were you able to glean anything in looking at -- in just
- 6 looking more broadly trying to see a little piece of how the
- 7 | Phoenix students were doing? Were you able to discern any
- 8 information?
- 9 A. Yes. When I --
- 10 0. And what was that?
- 11 A. Well, when I received the data I -- I thought this
- 12 | would be a great opportunity to find out how Phoenix was doing
- 13 because the data did have a field that indicated McCaskey and
- 14 | Phoenix and so I was able to take the data, a piece of it.
- 15 | Q. When you say a piece of it, a piece of the data would
- 16 | it be for a particular year?
- 17 A. Yes. It was --
- 18 Q. And what was that year?
- 19 A. 2015.
- 20 Q. Thank you.
- 21 A. So I took a snapshot, I don't mean a snapshot, I mean,
- 22 you know, I took, okay. I took a look at the 2015 data for
- 23 McCaskey and Phoenix and compared them. And I --
- 24 O. And what did you learn?
- 25 A. Well, I looked at them on several different measures.

1 It's very difficult to draw conclusions on a snapshot of data,

2 because you're not really looking at growth over time and I

3 | would have wanted to do that and of course, it wasn't provided

4 by the District. But I was able to take a look. I looked at

5 the four -- the four skills, I -- I looked at overall

6 proficiency. First I looked at overall proficiency, Phoenix

7 and overall proficiency at McCaskey and I looked at the levels

of the students, so how many were at level one through six,

okay.

8

9

10

15

Q. And what did your snapshot look disclose?

11 A. Well, the way -- the way it looked like -- the way it

12 | played out was if you just looked at the two schools and of

course they're not the same, they're going to be some

14 differences, it didn't look that different when you looked at

the overall distribution of levels although I would say there

16 were -- there were generally speaking upper-level students at

17 McCaskey than at Phoenix, but I'm not going to draw

18 | conclusions from that, but when I separated out only literacy

19 which includes two skills, reading and writing, so taking out

20 the listening and speaking looking only at the reading and

21 | writing I saw a glaring difference jump and the difference was

22 that at Phoenix compared with listening and speaking the

23 students are at much lower levels in reading and writing so

24 even though overall it looks similar, when you just look at

25 reading and writing McCaskey is clearly doing a much better

- 1 | job of getting them through the levels in the reading and the
- 2 | writing and that meant a lot as far as I was concerned with
- 3 | respect to how SLIFE would do in that -- in a school with
- 4 track record and again, it's difficult because it is just a
- 5 snapshot.
- 6 Q. And this was not information provided that -- that
- 7 | analysis that was done by the School District?
- 8 A. No. I -- I did that analysis.
- 9 Q. So in your professional opinion has the School District
- 10 | produced evidence that the program produces results indicating
- 11 | that language barriers confronting these particular students
- 12 | are actually being overcome?
- 13 A. Well, not only that it's -- it's not that they're not
- 14 | producing evidence that they're not overcoming them, it seems
- 15 | to me that the evidence -- the evidence shows that what
- 16 | they're doing is almost holding them back from making progress
- in the language, you know, it's detrimental what they're
- 18 doing, I feel, you know, that -- that they're not overcoming
- 19 their language barriers and they are holding them back from
- 20 progress they could be making in language.
- 21 | Q. In your opinion could all of the students in this case
- 22 and similarly situated students benefit from being placed at
- 23 McCaskey?
- 24 A. Absolutely. That -- it's very clear that that is where
- 25 these students would thrive.

- 1 | Q. Thank you.
- 2 MS. MCINERNEY: That's all I have for this
- 3 witness.
- 4 THE COURT: Thank you very much, counselor.
- 5 Attorney O'Donnell, you may cross-examine the witness.
- 6 | - -

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 | - - -

- 9 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 10 Q. Good afternoon.
- 11 A. Hi.
- 12 Q. Hi. So I just, I want to follow up on that last case
- 13 that Attorney McInerney discussed with you and when you
- 14 | were -- when you were looks for disaggregated data what areas
- 15 were you looking specifically? Not so much in terms of the
- 16 date, bought if we use that as a starting point what were some
- of the areas you looked at?
- 18 A. I looked at length of time in the program. I looked at
- 19 | level, overall composite level and I looked at the literacy
- 20 break out.
- 21 | Q. Okay. Did you -- did you use time in the ESL Program
- 22 as a -- as a data point?
- 23 A. I looked at it, I didn't use it for what I just talked
- 24 about, no.
- 25 | Q. Did you use special education designation as data

- 1 point?
- 2 A. No. No. I stayed away from that.
- Q. Did you use U.S. enrollment data as a data point?
- 4 A. I did not.
- 5 Q. Okay. And are you aware that these are areas that are
- 6 considered when -- when the School District of Lancaster looks
- 7 at data for their ELLs?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Okay. Let me take you -- let me take you back to the
- 10 beginning of your testimony. You said that you reviewed
- 11 | documents is that correct in preparing your report for this --
- 12 this trial or this case?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Yes?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 | Q. And you've referred to a list of documents that were
- 17 | provided to you; is that correct?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And through your -- your testimony you said that they
- 20 were provided by the School District of Lancaster; didn't you?
- 21 A. Some of -- some of them were, yes.
- 22 Q. Okay. So not all of the documents were provided to
- 23 you; right?
- 24 A. Right.
- 25 Q. [Indiscernible] School District -- well, strike that.

- 1 What do you mean by some of the documents were provided by the
- 2 | School District of Lancaster? What does that mean?
- 3 A. Well, I also looked at WIDA [ph] documents, State of
- 4 Pennsylvania documents.
- 5 Q. Anything else?
- 6 A. Federal regulations.
- 7 Q. Okay. And when you say State of Pennsylvania documents
- 8 what State of Pennsylvania documents did you read?
- 9 A. I looked at parental consent, I looked at --
- 10 | Q. Parental consent?
- 11 A. The -- okay, hang on. Hang on. Hang on.
- 12 Q. I'm --
- 13 A. I looked at --
- 14 | Q. For clarification I'm not hearing you, that's why I --
- 15 A. Oh, okay.
- 16 Q. -- [indiscernible] that?
- 17 A. I looked at the -- oh, okay. Oh, I looked at the
- 18 | guidelines document that we looked at earlier here. I looked
- 19 at the -- I looked at the accommodations allowable for English
- 20 | learners. I looked at the parental -- parental consent
- 21 document.
- 22 | Q. And how were you --
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. -- provided with that information?
- 25 A. I went to the website.

- 1 Q. Whose website?
- 2 A. Pennsylvania Department of Education website.
- 3 Q. So you pulled -- you did some independent research,
- 4 | pulled from their website the document that you felt would be
- 5 | useful to you?
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And you relied on the content of that document and your
- 10 own review in assisting you to prepare your report for today?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Okay. And also in preparing your report where did you
- obtain -- other than the -- the Pennsylvania Department of
- 14 | State website where else did you obtain information?
- 15 A. I obtained information from interviews.
- 16 Q. Okay, but I'm talking about documents for right now.
- 17 | A. Okay.
- 18 | Q. So could we just stay with that?
- 19 A. Okay.
- 20 Q. Okay. So where -- where else did you obtain documents?
- 21 A. Most of the documents oh, the WIDA. I -- I went to the
- 22 | WIDA site and got WIDA documents there.
- 23 Q. WIDA site. You went to the WIDA sites. Are you a
- 24 member of WIDA?
- 25 A. Am I a member of WIDA?

- 1 Q. Yes, ma'am, are you a member of WIDA?
- 2 A. You mean as an individual?
- 3 Q. Yes, ma'am, as an individual.
- 4 A. No. No. No.
- 5 | Q. Okay. So I did hear your testimony on direct that you
- 6 acknowledged WIDA as being a national consortium that was --
- 7 one of the reasons why it's -- it's in existence is to provide
- 8 guidance to educators?
- 9 A. It's -- it's a state membership. States join WIDA.
- 10 | O. And so in order for -- so for example if either in
- 11 | Massachusetts or New York have you joined have you joined WIDA
- 12 as a member through the state?
- 13 A. New York is not a WIDA state --
- 14 | Q. New York --
- 15 A. -- by choice. Massachusetts is a WIDA state.
- 16 Q. So do you have access to WIDA through membership with
- 17 Massachusetts?
- 18 A. You don't need -- you don't need access. WIDA is
- 19 | freely available to anyone.
- 20 Q. It's -- okay. So you used their website for
- 21 | information that you're using to prepare your report?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Is that correct? Okay. Where else did you obtain
- 24 documents?
- 25 A. I looked at the federal -- some federal documents --

- 1 | Q. Okay.
- 2 A. -- also on line.
- Q. Okay. And what website did you use for looking at your
- 4 [indiscernible] documents?
- 5 A. USDOE.
- 6 Q. That was the -- the U.S. Department of Education?
- 7 A. Yes. U.S. Department of Education.
- 8 Q. Okay. And any other source that you used to obtain
- 9 documents?
- 10 A. Documents.
- 11 | O. Documents.
- 12 A. I think that's it.
- 13 Q. Okay. Where did you get the documents that are
- 14 | marked -- that are bate stamped, unfortunately LSD in this --
- 15 | in this litigation? Where did you get those documents?
- 16 A. I don't understand. Where did I get the documents?
- 17 | Q. From whom did you get the documents?
- 18 A. The attorneys.
- 19 Q. Which attorneys?
- 20 A. My -- those attorney -- that -- I'm not.
- 21 Q. Can you name one of them?
- 22 A. I don't --
- 23 Q. Can you name one of them that helped, that provided you
- 24 with the documents?
- 25 A. Yes. Primarily Maura McInerney sent me the documents,

- 1 | I think they almost always came from her directly.
- 2 Q. Okay. Okay. So in order to prepare your report you
- 3 relied on documents that were provided to you by Attorney
- 4 McInerney and the websites of WIDA, the U.S. DOE and the
- 5 | Pennsylvania Department of Education as well. Did I miss
- 6 anything?
- 7 A. Unless we both missed it, no.
- 8 | Q. Okay. Did you go to the Phoenix website and pull any
- 9 documents from Phoenix Academy?
- 10 A. You know, I did look at the -- okay. Are we talking
- about documents that I printed and used or websites I went to
- 12 to look at?
- 13 | Q. I am asking for document --
- 14 | A. Okay.
- 15 | Q. -- that you used in preparing your report --
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. -- so it doesn't matter to me --
- 18 A. No. No.
- 19 Q. -- if you printed --
- 20 A. Okay.
- 21 | Q. -- them or not?
- 22 A. All right. No. I understand. I'm just thinking of --
- 23 | I did go to other websites to look, but I did not print. I
- 24 did not use the documents, no.
- 25 Q. So is that -- so did you go to the Phoenix Academy

- 1 | website at all? Let's start with that question.
- 2 A. Phoenix Academy website, yes.
- Q. You did? And did you print anything or read anything,
- 4 any documents or any information on that website? You're
- 5 | shaking your head no. Is that a no?
- 6 A. No. No. That's a no.
- 7 | Q. Okay. So you didn't -- you didn't look at the Phoenix
- 8 Academy website? Do we -- do we agree on that?
- 9 A. I looked at the website. I didn't use the material in
- 10 the report.
- 11 Q. Okay. And then what about any documents from the,
- 12 pardon me. Did you look at the School District of Lancaster
- 13 | website?
- 14 A. Yes, I did.
- 15 | Q. Okay. And did you read or print any documents from
- 16 that website?
- 17 A. I read, but didn't print and didn't use.
- 18 Q. Okay. Other than the documents provided by Attorney
- 19 McInerney did you rely on any documents concerning either the
- 20 program at Phoenix Academy or the school of District of
- 21 | Lancaster's International School?
- 22 A. Other than the ones provided --
- 23 Q. Yes, ma'am.
- 24 A. -- no.
- 25 | Q. Okay. Now, in terms of the interviews, let's talk

- about the people you spoke with?
- 2 | A. Okay.
- 3 Q. To prepare this report.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 Q. Who were they?
- 6 A. Who did I talk to?
- 7 Q. Yes, ma'am.
- 8 A. Khadidja Issa.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 | A. Qasin Hasan.
- 11 | O. Okay.
- 12 A. I spoke with Sui Hnem. I spoke with Van Ni Lang. I
- 13 | spoke with Alembe -- Alembe Dunia and Anyem Dunia, those are
- 14 | the students you just wanted to students; right?
- 15 | Q. I want -- I want you to name anyone that you
- 16 | interviewed to prepare your report.
- 17 A. And I spoke with Phiza Abdulla [ph] who was a parent
- and Marquee [ph] who was a parent and did you want the other
- 19 interviews?
- 20 Q. Yes, ma'am.
- 21 A. Megan Brown and Sheila Mastro -- I can't remember
- 22 | exactly her last name [indiscernible].
- 23 Q. Okay. But you did -- you did referred her -- refer to
- 24 her earlier as --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- the woman who testified here in court --
- 2 A. Yes, that was her.
- Q. -- on Monday; is that correct?
- 4 A. Sheila, yes.
- 5 Q. Was she the first witness?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And her last name I believe was Mastropietro [ph]?
- 8 A. Thank you.
- 9 Q. Is that correct?
- 10 A. Probably, yeah.
- 11 Q. Probably?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. Anyone else, ma'am?
- 14 A. Yes. I -- I interviewed Jandy Rivera.
- 15 | Q. Jandy Rivera? Okay. Was there anyone else that you
- 16 can think of that interviewed to prepare this report and for
- 17 | your testimony today?
- 18 \mid A. Is it okay if I -- I look at the list to see if I
- 19 | missed anybody?
- 20 Q. Absolutely.
- 21 A. Okay. Does that reflect on me if I have to look at the
- 22 [indiscernible] Mastropietro? Yes.
- 23 Q. Okay. So we --
- 24 A. That's --
- 25 Q. -- agree on that name?

- 1 A. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, that's
- 2 it. Those are the interviews.
- Q. Okay. How did you interview the children? When whom
- 4 | did you interview the children?
- 5 A. I interviewed them with an interpreter or a land line
- 6 or a language line.
- 7 Q. Okay. And where were those interviews held?
- 8 A. I'm -- I don't remember the name of the exact
- 9 organization, but it was a -- a social services organization
- 10 in Lancaster.
- 11 | Q. Okay. Would that have been at Church World Services?
- 12 A. [Indiscernible] I -- I -- I'm -- I'm -- I apologize.
- 13 Q. You can't testify to where you -- you --
- 14 A. Because --
- 15 | Q. Let me finish my question, ma'am.
- 16 A. Okay.
- 17 | Q. You -- are you able to testify about where you met the
- 18 | plaintiffs to prepare -- interview -- to -- to conduct
- 19 interviews in preparation for your report and your testimony?
- 20 It's simply a yes or no. Do you --
- 21 A. Yeah. I -- I --
- 22 Q. Are you able to testify to that or not?
- 23 A. I -- I don't trust my memory to remember the exact name
- of the organization. I can picture the building in my mind
- and I went there two days in a row and spent all day in the

- 1 building interviewing these folks; okay.
- 2 Q. Interviewing the children?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And their parents?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. You just don't know what building you were in?
- 7 A. Well, okay. The -- the Lutheran one is the one that
- 8 closed. It's probably the church -- well, she was at Church
- 9 World Service.
- 10 MS. MCINERNEY: Objection [indiscernible].
- 11 THE WITNESS: Wait, Lutheran Children and Family
- 12 Service.
- THE COURT: One -- one moment, ma'am.
- 14 THE WITNESS: I --
- 15 THE COURT: Is there an objection? No? The
- 16 | objection is withdrawn?
- MS. MCINERNEY: Yes.
- 18 THE COURT: Very well, you may proceed.
- 19 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 20 Q. I'm sorry, ma'am?
- 21 A. Lutheran Children -- I do have it -- I have it written
- 22 here. So --
- 23 Q. What do you have written?
- 24 A. Lutheran Children and Family Service.
- 25 Q. Okay. And is that a different organization than the

- 1 one that closed?
- 2 A. Than the one that closed. I know that there was one
- 3 organization that closed and another organization was taking
- 4 over its services.
- 5 Q. And how do you know that information?
- 6 A. From a conversation that was held informally explaining
- 7 how we had set up the interviews. I --
- 8 Q. Were you also present for the -- the testimony of
- 9 Aleese Chessin [ph]?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. You were not here that day in court to hear Aleese
- 12 | Chessin testify?
- 13 A. No. I was not.
- 14 Q. Okay. So the best of your recollection is you had an
- 15 informal conversation with someone about the name of the
- 16 organization where you were going to be interviewing these
- children and to the best of your recollection as you sit here
- 18 | today you don't know what that is?
- 19 A. If I had known it was important I would've made sure
- 20 | that I knew it. I was focused on my interviews. I was
- 21 | focused on the information. I was not focused on what
- 22 | building I was in or the particular organization that had made
- 23 the arrangement s for the interviews. I -- I put my attention
- on my work and my expertise in my field and I didn't feel
- 25 although in retrospect if I had known it was important I

- 1 | would've made a point of it, but I didn't feel that those
- 2 details were important for me to hold in my head and then I
- 3 | didn't hold them in my head and I'm --
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. -- that's about all I can say on that matter.
- 6 Q. Thank you. Thank you. Other than the children who --
- 7 | who else attended those interviews with you?
- 8 A. Wait, hold on one second.
- 9 Q. Take your time. Dr. Marshall would you like a break?
- 10 A. No. I just need a little more water.
- 11 THE COURT: Actually the problem is I told you
- 12 | this was all going to easy, was I right?
- THE WITNESS: I'm sorry?
- 14 THE COURT: I told you this was all going to be
- 15 easy.
- 16 | THE WITNESS: You -- you devil. Okay. All
- 17 right.
- 18 THE COURT: Are you ready to go. Go ahead.
- MS. O'DONNELL: Okay.
- 20 THE COURT: Counselor you may proceed.
- 21 THE WITNESS: Go ahead.
- 22 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 23 Q. Thank you. So my question, I'll repeat it.
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 Q. Was who other than the children and their parents

- 1 attended the interviews with you?
- 2 A. With me.
- 3 Q. Yes, ma'am.
- 4 A. Okay. The -- the attorneys were in the room but they
- 5 | did not -- it -- it was an -- it was my interview.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. Does that make sense?
- 8 Q. Well, let's see.
- 9 A. Okay.
- 10 Q. Let's test that, shall we.
- 11 | A. They -- they were off doing their own thing. They
- 12 | weren't -- they were off doing their own thing. I was the one
- doing the interviews with the interpreter.
- 14 Q. Okay. So let me give you an instruction so that when
- 15 | you're -- you're testifying it might help to relax. Do your
- 16 best.
- 17 A. Okay.
- 18 Q. If my questions are --
- 19 A. Thank you.
- 20 Q. -- are awkwardly phrased or confusing --
- 21 | A. Okay.
- 22 | Q. -- please tell me --
- 23 A. Okay.
- Q. -- and I'll do my best to rephrase or repeat them so
- 25 that you're more comfortable and you're able to respond as

- 1 | fully and completely as you can.
- 2 A. Okay.
- 3 Q. Okay?
- 4 A. Sure.
- 5 Q. Okay. If you want to move the mic closer to your mouth
- 6 so that you can sit back in your chair that would be -- that
- 7 | would be good -- as far as I'm concerned and if that's what
- 8 makes you more comfortable than let's do that; okay?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. All right. All right. Now, when you interviewed --
- 11 | can you tell me the order in which you interviewed the
- 12 | children?
- 13 A. Is that important? The order.
- 14 Q. The older Dunia boy?
- 15 | A. No. Just hang on, because I -- I did -- I did review
- 16 | this, but --
- MS. MCINERNEY: Objection. Relevance.
- 18 THE COURT: Counselor what's the relevance of
- 19 the order that she interviewed the children?
- MS. O'DONNELL: Well, it goes to her
- 21 | recollection of what the -- what the interviews -- I'd like to
- 22 know who, I mean, she did say who she interviewed, but I'd
- 23 | like to press that a little further and see what the order
- 24 was.
- 25 MS. MCINERNEY: I don't see how the order is

- 1 | relevant to her memory -- to her memory of what they said.
- THE COURT: Well, ma'am --
- 3 MS. MCINERNEY: Or that the order matters.
- 4 THE COURT: Ma'am did you take notes with -- at
- 5 | each one of these interviews?
- 6 THE WITNESS: I -- yeah, I had a schedule. I
- 7 | was given a schedule. I was given a schedule of when -- of
- 8 | each -- of the interviews.
- 9 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 10 | O. And who --
- 11 A. -- but I don't have that schedule with me.
- 12 Q. Okay. And who --
- 13 A. And I followed a schedule --
- 14 Q. All right.
- 15 A. And the students appeared and it was how do you do?
- 16 Let's start your interview.
- 17 | Q. Do you recall how many students you interviewed per
- 18 | day?
- 19 A. I interviewed I think four, one, two, three, four,
- 20 | well, there were six. I think I interviewed two, four, three,
- 21 | I think four on one day and the other two -- because there was
- 22 someone who was going to show up and didn't show -- and show
- 23 up the next day. This is very difficult believe it or not.
- 24 | See, Issa, Issa and the Dunia brothers and then Qasin. I
- 25 think it was like three and three.

- 1 Q. Okay. Okay. Other than the children.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. You testified that you -- you did a telephone interview
- 4 | I believe you said with Ms. Rivera?
- 5 A. Yes. That was by phone, yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. And how long did that interview last?
- 7 A. About an hour.
- 8 Q. Okay. And what information if at all did you use to
- 9 | prepare your report that you obtained from Ms. Rivera?
- 10 A. A good bit of it, yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. And -- and you did not provide notes of -- of
- 12 | the interview with Ms. Rivera to your attorneys to -- to
- disclose to us with that report; is that correct?
- 14 A. No. I didn't provide anything to them about that --
- 15 that interview.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. I did the interview.
- 18 | Q. Okay. And when you say you used most of it, can you
- 19 | tell me what she said you have a recollection of what you
- 20 heard from Jandy Rivera?
- 21 A. Yes, actually I was here this morning and I heard
- 22 | things this morning that were similar to what I had heard when
- 23 | I interviewed her. Do you want me to be specific or there's
- 24 | quite a bit?
- 25 | Q. How about if we -- we approach it this way. Was there

- 1 | anything different that you heard in the telephone
- 2 conversation that you didn't hear in her testimony this
- 3 morning?
- 4 A. No. It was amazingly what I had heard, yes.
- 5 Q. Okay. All right. Did you say amazingly what I had
- 6 heard? I'm sorry. I couldn't --
- 7 A. No. I just meant that it was very -- it was -- I kept
- 8 | hearing, oh yes, I remember it reminded me, yeah, I remember
- 9 her saying that. I remember her saying that, that's all I
- 10 | meant by that.
- 11 Q. Oh, okay. I'm just -- I wasn't sure that I heard you
- 12 properly.
- 13 A. Yeah. No, I didn't mean I was surprised.
- 14 Q. Okay. So you reviewed documents. You did some
- 15 interviews, the children, Ms. Rivera and was that it? I'm
- 16 sorry. Was that all -- was that -- not that -- that -- that
- 17 | to minimize the number of people you spoke with was, but was
- 18 | that it?
- $19 \mid A. \quad Mm-hmm.$
- 20 Q. Yes? Is that a yes?
- 21 | A. Yes.
- 22 Q. This is being recorded by and transcribed --
- 23 A. I understand. Right.
- 24 | Q. -- by a court reporter.
- 25 A. Right.

- 1 | Q. So you need to try not to speak over me and you need to
- 2 answer in words that can be spelled; okay.
- A. Yes, I understand.
- 4 | Q. All right. Thank you very much. Thank you, very much.
- 5 Did you speak to anyone at all at the Phoenix Academy?
- 6 A. From the Phoenix Academy?
- 7 Q. Yes, ma'am.
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Okay. And when you were on the website did you look to
- 10 see whether or not there was an executive director running
- 11 that program?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 | Q. Do you know who the executive director running that
- 14 | program is?
- 15 A. Ms. Misnik. Yeah.
- 16 Q. Yes. And did you -- in order to prepare a
- 17 | comprehensive report did you think about speaking with Ms.
- 18 | Misnik to understand more about the Phoenix Academy's program?
- 19 A. I did not -- this is the first time I've done this and
- 20 I did not know that it was appropriate or expected for me to
- 21 do that. I didn't know that was something that would be
- 22 possible to do.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 A. Would it? Oh, I -- you ask questions, I don't. Sorry.
- 25 | Q. You got it. You got this down. Okay. So along the

- 1 | same line would your answer be the same if I asked whether or
- 2 | not it might have occurred to you to speak to the principal at
- 3 | the Phoenix Academy the person who works and supervises other
- 4 teachers and -- and --
- 5 A. Same --
- 6 Q. -- over the curriculum?
- 7 A. Same thing. I did not know that that was something
- 8 that was available to me, possible for me to do as part of
- 9 this.
- 10 | O. Okay. And what about the -- the administration at
- 11 | School District of Lancaster? Did -- did you look on the
- website to see the identity of the superintendent of schools?
- 13 A. Yes, I did.
- 14 Q. Okay. And do you know who that person is?
- 15 A. Demaris Rowel [ph].
- 16 Q. And had you ever spoking to Demaris Rowel regarding the
- 17 | curriculum and education available to all students?
- 18 A. Same answer. As for the other two administrators, the
- 19 same thing. I did not know that that would be appropriate or
- 20 possible for me to do.
- 21 | Q. If you had known that it was appropriate and possible
- 22 | would you have asked to interview those folks?
- 23 A. I think so. Why not? Or I -- I think so.
- Q. Okay. Well, I tend to agree with you. Now, without --
- 25 without rubbing this in too much, I know we've heard a lot --

- 1 | we've heard the -- that the acronym SLIFE used all day today,
- 2 | but for our -- the purposes of our discussion I'd like to use
- 3 the terminology students with limited or interrupted education
- 4 | is that -- is that a fair description of -- of the acronym;
- 5 ma'am?
- 6 A. Yeah, the only difference would be the word formal,
- 7 | because there are different types of education. There's
- 8 informal education and there's formal education.
- 9 Q. Okay. And you would consider would you not public
- 10 school education to constitute formal education?
- 11 A. Yes, I would.
- 12 Q. Okay. And how broad does that definition go? Does
- it -- does it reach to home schooling?
- 14 A. I'd have to think more about that because that's not my
- 15 | area of expertise, home schooling. I know that they follow,
- 16 I'm just speaking as almost -- they -- the home schooling
- 17 needs to follow those school curriculum.
- 18 | Q. Okay.
- 19 A. So to that extent, but I really could not feel
- 20 confident answering anything about home schooling.
- 21 Q. Okay. And then what about cyber-schooling? Do you
- 22 | feel comfortable testifying about whether or not
- 23 | cyber-schooling is formal education, formal public school
- 24 education?
- 25 A. Cyber-schooling I'm not even familiar with the term

- 1 cyber-schooling.
- Q. Okay.
- 3 A. I think I can guess what it is but.
- 4 | Q. So when we talk about Students with Limited or
- 5 Interrupted Formal Education is there a particular demographic
- 6 that that applies other than the obvious?
- 7 A. Well, what -- other than the obvious, I'm not sure
- 8 | what --
- 9 Q. Obvious would be any child who hasn't -- who hasn't
- 10 attended school, seat time consecutively from kindergarten
- 11 through 12th grade?
- 12 A. Well, as I said, there are several characteristics
- 13 | that's only one of them.
- 14 Q. Okay. And the other characteristics do they -- what --
- 15 | what -- what do they include?
- 16 A. Limited literacy.
- 17 | Q. Okay.
- 18 A. Or no literacy; right. Two years behind their grade
- 19 level.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. And except with rare exceptions traumatic or stressful
- 22 experiences in prior to arrival in the country.
- 23 Q. Okay. But I thought we -- I thought you testified that
- 24 | the stressful and traumatic experiences didn't need to be part
- 25 of that.

- 1 A. I said except in rare exceptions.
- 2 Q. Okay. So there could be an American student who might
- 3 | be SLIFE; is that correct?
- $4 \mid A$. No. These are -- this is a subset of English language
- 5 learners.
- 6 Q. So -- so -- so for example, a child coming from South
- 7 | America, Bolivia who doesn't speak any English at all --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- would not be a SLIFE student if that person attended
- 10 school every year consecutively through the end of that
- 11 person's education when they transferred to --
- 12 A. What -- where -- where did they attend school in
- 13 | Bolivia?
- 14 Q. In Bolivia.
- 15 A. Well they may or may not be SLIFE. We would need -- we
- 16 | would need to know more about their background.
- 17 | Q. But if they -- but if that person only had those
- 18 | factors that you included, right, the -- the two years behind
- 19 and whatever the other ones were, all of those factors would
- 20 have to apply to a student transferring to an American school
- in order to be considered SLIFE?
- 22 A. I'm trying to be -- I'm trying to understand what
- 23 you're asking, but for some reason it's not --
- Q. It's not -- it's not coming through?
- 25 A. Well, because limited, the word, you see the key here

- 1 | is limited. So if someone -- we're using Bolivia.
- 2 Q. Sure.
- A. If someone were educated their entire life, but limited
- 4 | the people teaching them were not really qualified, the books
- were out of date, there's conditions in the country did not
- 6 allow for serious focus on school, because of what was going
- 7 on, you know, limited covers a lot.
- 8 | Q. Okay.
- 9 A. So --
- 10 | Q. So stop there. So, by whose standards? By Bolivian
- 11 | standards or by American standards?
- 12 A. By American standards.
- 13 | O. Okay. So in Bolivia they may have finished an
- 14 | appropriate amount of education in order to get a certificate
- 15 | to leave school and they be happy and go on their merry way if
- 16 | they decided to come to America we would not accept their
- credentials, academic credentials we would -- we would
- 18 consider those folks SLIFE?
- 19 A. Well, your -- you've talked about an issue that is not
- 20 within my area of expertise --
- 21 | Q. Okay.
- 22 A. -- which has to do with the certificate from another
- 23 country. That's not something that I have become involved in
- 24 in my work.
- 25 | Q. All right. So I'm just -- I'm -- I'm trying to -- to

- 1 | -- to understand the universe of SLIFE people that can come to
- 2 | America to be educated. Are they only foreign nationals of
- 3 | refugee status that come from war torn countries and have had
- 4 interrupted education when they come to America for education
- is -- are they -- are they who we're calling SLIFE?
- 6 A. Not only refugees. They could be immigrants.
- 7 | Q. Immigrants. But they have -- and they have to be ELLs
- 8 | right? They have to speak no English at all?
- 9 A. Well, you raise an interesting point which hasn't come
- 10 | up at all it doesn't apply to the School District of
- 11 Lancaster, but is very interesting in our field which is that
- 12 you could actually come from an English speaking country and
- 13 be SLIFE.
- 14 Q. And how would that work?
- 15 A. But those -- the problem with them that's a very
- 16 controversial issue in our field as to what to do with them,
- 17 | because they speak English like Jamaicans. But it doesn't
- 18 | really revolve -- it doesn't have anything to do with what
- 19 | we're doing right now.
- 20 Q. Well, it certainly doesn't have anything to do with
- 21 | your report; correct?
- 22 A. Right. I --
- 23 Q. Right. You did not consider any of that information?
- 24 A. I didn't -- I didn't consider that, because I was
- 25 trying to stay with what was relevant and I was trying to work

- 1 | with the -- with the world of those students that I was
- 2 analyzing.
- Q. And -- and that segues into my next question. So you
- 4 | -- you -- it was your opinion I believe that the folks at
- 5 Phoenix or at least these six kids; right?
- 6 A. Yeah. Yes.
- 7 | Q. Did not receive an equal education opportunity as a
- 8 | result of their accelerated through the Phoenix Academy? Was
- 9 | that your opinion?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And so my question is equal with whom?
- 12 A. The -- the students at McCaskey, their counterparts.
- 13 | O. So if we have a student let's take Khadidja Issa and
- 14 | she's at Phoenix Academy and she has a younger sister at
- 15 | McCaskey, Norsham Adissa actually, the name is [indiscernible]
- 16 | would -- would -- is it your testimony that Khadidja going
- 17 | through the Phoenix Academy is not getting an equal education
- 18 | with her sister Norsham who -- who -- I'm sorry. I was -- you
- 19 -- you were distracting me looking back in the courtroom, I
- 20 thought perhaps something was happening back there. Not
- 21 getting an equal education to her sister Norsham who attends
- 22 McCaskey, but in a younger grade. Is that your opinion in
- 23 this case?
- 24 A. That was very long and I'm trying to make sure before I
- 25 say yes or no that I understand what --

- 1 Q. Okay. Well, thank you for asking --
- 2 A. -- you said.
- 3 | Q. -- me to clarify or repeat.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 | Q. I'll repeat my question.
- 6 A. Could -- could you do that.
- 7 | Q. Okay.
- 8 A. Because equal education there's so many things that go
- 9 into that, because --
- 10 | Q. Well, explain -- explain that to us.
- 11 A. -- there are different --
- 12 Q. Now, I'll ask you again --
- 13 A. Well, there are different grade levels. There are
- 14 | different people, what does equal mean? I --
- 15 | Q. What does equal mean to you, it was your opinion?
- 16 | A. Well.
- 17 THE COURT: Counselor, there's an objection?
- 18 MS. MCINERNEY: Objection. I -- I feel like
- 19 | we're -- that this is really asking for a legal conclusion as
- 20 to what constitutes an equal educational opportunity.
- 21 MS. O'DONNELL: I'm only looking for the facts,
- 22 | Your Honor. I'm not looking for her legal opinion at all.
- 23 | THE COURT: I'll overrule the objection and see
- 24 where it goes.
- THE WITNESS: All right.

- 1 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 2 Q. You tell -- you tell me what equal means. Now, I'm not
- 3 | saying legally equal. I'm saying from your perspective as --
- 4 as a professional educator and scholar and writer what does
- 5 equal mean to you in terms of your opinion in this case and as
- 6 applied to these children?
- 7 A. Her sister went to the -- I need to know more, because
- 8 | did her sister go to the international school?
- 9 Q. I'll allow you to assume that so when you did your
- 10 interview you never knew that? You did not discover that
- 11 information from Khadidja when you spoke with her?
- 12 A. I'm asking -- I'm asking to make sure you're -- when
- 13 you say equal, that you want me to say if [indiscernible] if
- 14 | Khadidja had gone to the international school --
- 15 Q. Okay. Let's -- let's do --
- 16 A. -- is that what you want to know?
- 17 | Q. Yes, sure.
- 18 A. Okay.
- 19 0. Okay.
- 20 A. All right. So you're -- you're asking me that --
- 21 whether if Khadidja went to the international school she
- 22 | would've gotten a better education?
- 23 | O. No.
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. That's not my question?

- 1 A. That's not your question.
- 2 | O. No.
- 3 A. Okay.
- 4 | Q. All right. So -- so let's just take it -- let's just
- 5 | take it -- let's break it down and step back a little bit.
- 6 Are you aware that Khadidja Issa had a sister who is attended
- 7 | McCaskey High School whose name is Norsham who is one year
- 8 younger than Khadidja?
- 9 A. Yeah, I didn't know her name, but yes.
- 10 | Q. You knew that? So when you're forming your opinion as
- 11 | applied to these girls are you saying that Khadidja's
- 12 education through the Phoenix Academy is not an equal
- 13 | opportunity with the education her sister Norsham is getting
- 14 at the international school?
- 15 A. Oh, well, yes, absolutely. It's not.
- 16 Q. Okay. And -- and that -- that's -- what is that based
- on? Your review of the records?
- 18 A. That's based on the -- the interview with -- the
- 19 documents that I reviewed and the interview with Khadidja.
- 20 Q. Okay. What were the questions you were asking
- 21 | Khadidja? How did you -- what -- what helped you form your
- 22 opinion through that interview process?
- 23 A. I asked her to talk about her ESL class and what she
- 24 was learning and I asked her about her other classes and what
- 25 | she was learning.

- 1 | Q. Okay. And were you here for her testimony?
- 2 A. Yes, I was.
- Q. And was the testimony that she gave here substantially
- 4 the same as the information she provided you during the
- 5 interview?
- 6 A. And even more so, yes.
- 7 Q. Even more so here?
- 8 A. Mm-hmm.
- 9 | Q. Okay. So she -- is that a yes?
- 10 A. Yes. Oh, yes.
- 11 | Q. Is it even -- so she gave more information to the Court
- 12 | than she did to you specifically in the interview?
- 13 A. Yes, because at the time I interviewed her I didn't
- 14 have her work samples, they came in later.
- 15 | Q. Okay. And did those work samples change your initial
- 16 opinion at all?
- 17 A. It reinforced for me --
- 18 | Q. Go ahead. Finish your answer. It reinforced your --
- 19 | it reinforced your opinion.
- 20 A. It reinforced for me what she had anecdotally told me
- 21 by giving the actual documentation and her looking at it and
- 22 saying when she didn't know the answer the answer was given to
- 23 her.
- 24 | O. Okay.
- 25 A. Which I was guessing at, but what -- couldn't actually

- 1 | know until the student work was provided.
- 2 Q. Now, when you rendered an opinion and I'm just
- 3 referring to the first page of your report. I'm sorry, page
- 4 four under Roman III analysis at the very bottom of that first
- 5 paragraph.
- 6 A. All right. So what --
- 7 Q. You said --
- 8 A. Just one minute, please.
- 9 Q. Okay. I -- I was just going to read it to you and
- 10 | break it down and ask you some questions.
- 11 A. Okay.
- 12 Q. I've got broken down, so I don't --
- 13 | A. Okay.
- 14 Q. -- think you need to follow along.
- 15 | A. Okay.
- 16 Q. But if you'd like to you may. Are you there?
- 17 A. Go ahead.
- 18 Q. Okay. Ready?
- 19 A. Yes. Yes.
- 20 Q. Yes? Okay. So your -- your sentence begins, "The ESL
- 21 | Program and placement of older immigrant ELLs at Phoenix and
- 22 one not based on sound education theory or legitimate
- 23 | experiment." That's your opinion?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 | Q. And what is that based on? Padagogi [ph] or something

- 1 else?
- 2 A. What would -- what would --
- Q. What -- how did you base your opinion? Upon what did
- 4 | you base that? It's not -- that the program is not based on
- 5 sound educational theory or legitimate experiment. What
- 6 particularly were you relying on to form that opinion?
- 7 A. My background in education of English language
- 8 learners.
- 9 Q. And when you say your background is that in teaching
- 10 | teachers how to teach ESL?
- 11 A. Well, it's in the fact that I have a doctorate in the
- 12 | field and many years of teaching and observing working with
- districts and knowing about the needs of SLIFE.
- 14 Q. And does that have anything to do with national -- a
- 15 child's national origin? Do you consider a child's
- 16 | national -- because I'm sorry, I mean, I'll try to allow you
- 17 | to answer that first question. And if you -- you --
- 18 you're looking at me and sort of cocking your head to one side
- 19 and so I don't know if you're hearing me or you don't
- 20 understand my question, so if you don't understand my
- 21 | question --
- 22 A. Right.
- 23 | Q. -- please ask me to rephrase it and I'll do that; okay?
- 24 A. Yes, I -- I -- I okay. Maybe you're talking about does
- 25 accelerated credit recovery ever work for anybody at all? Is

- 1 | that what you're asking me?
- 2 Q. No.
- 3 A. Oh.
- 4 Q. That wasn't the question.
- 5 A. Okay. What's -- what's the question?
- 6 Q. Let me try again. Okay.
- 7 A. I'm sorry.
- 8 | Q. Whether in formulating your opinion that the program at
- 9 Phoenix was not based on sound educational theory or
- 10 legitimate experiment you considered a student's national
- 11 origin in helping to formulate that opinion. Does it apply to
- 12 | all students across the board or just some students? Or does
- it have nothing to do with it at all?
- 14 A. Well, that's what I -- I -- I apologize, I'm trying,
- 15 | I'll really trying to understand you.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 | A. And you're asking me are there some students for whom
- 18 that educational theory could work. Is that --
- 19 Q. I'll take -- okay. I'll take that, yes.
- 20 A. And I would say it's -- it's possible that that -- that
- 21 accelerated credit recovery could work for some students.
- 22 | O. Okay. Now when you say could work for some students
- 23 who are those students?
- 24 A. Okay. Now, I would say that my purview is TESOL.
- 25 Okay. So --

- 1 | Q. And explain -- just -- just let's stop using acronyms,
- 2 because --
- 3 A. Okay. I'm sorry. My -- my --
- 4 | Q. -- it gets, long interviews to try to remember them.
- 5 A. My expertise. Okay. I'm doing my best here. My
- 6 expertise here. I am here because I am a specialist in TESOL.
- 7 Q. Which is?
- 8 A. Okay. Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. And so when I talk about whether a theory is
- 11 educationally sound.
- 12 Q. Right.
- 13 A. -- I am talking about whether it is educationally sound
- 14 for the population of students that I have expertise in which
- 15 | would be English language learners.
- 16 Q. Regardless of their national origin?
- 17 | A. Regardless of their national origin. Why is that a
- 18 | problem for me to understand what you're saying? What --
- 19 regardless of their national origin.
- 20 Q. Right.
- 21 A. English language learners regardless of your national
- 22 origin, so meaning if they were born here. Is that what you
- 23 | mean? Like would it apply to a U.S. citizen who's an English
- 24 | learner? Is that what you're asking?
- 25 Q. That could be, yes, an example. There are many, many

- 1 | examples I could give you --
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. -- but you do have [indiscernible] do you not?
- 4 A. Okay. Yeah.
- 5 | O. I don't think I need to [indiscernible]?
- 6 A. It's hard for me -- for some reason that is not
- 7 | intuitive to me to understand what it is we're talking about
- 8 here, but I guess it doesn't matter what their national --
- 9 | national -- why would that -- in terms of my expertise there
- 10 are a lot of English language learners who were born here.
- 11 | Q. Actually in terms of your opinion, so that's all I want
- 12 to know whether national origin factors into it at all,
- 13 because you're right, there could be some Americans in fact
- some Canadians that don't -- that are English language
- 15 | learners. Do you agree?
- 16 A. And there are some people -- there -- there are some
- 17 | students from other countries who are not English language
- 18 | learners.
- 19 0. That is correct.
- 20 A. So it's like a --
- 21 | Q. But as far as your opinion goes.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Who did you have in mind? All English language
- learners regardless of their national origin; is that correct?
- 25 A. Well, no. I have in mind the newcomer Non-English

- 1 speaking immigrants.
- 2 Q. So limited to that -- that group?
- 3 A. Yes --
- 4 Q. You don't think this accelerated program works limited
- 5 to this group?
- 6 A. This group, yes.
- 7 Q. But it could work for some groups, just not this
- 8 groups?
- 9 A. I'm -- yes.
- 10 Q. Okay. And you say even if supported, this is number
- 11 two, and even if supported by experts it is not--
- 12 A. Right.
- 13 Q. -- effectively implemented. And again, because we're
- 14 talking about this particular group of people.
- 15 A. Well, wait a minute, I was still thinking about your
- 16 | former question. I want to go back to that again, because --
- 17 | Q. Do you want to change your testimony?
- 18 | A. No. No. I want to --
- 19 Q. Well, if you don't want to change your testimony we can
- 20 move on.
- 21 A. I want to -- I want to make sure I'm understanding.
- 22 When I said that this program might work for other students I
- 23 | wasn't referring to English language learners.
- Q. I understand that. We're only talking about
- 25 | Non-English speaking people.

- 1 A. Okay. Good. Good.
- 2 \ Q. So now you're not going to change your opinion?
- 3 A. No. I wouldn't change --
- 4 | Q. You're confident with where you are?
- 5 A. I just want.
- 6 Q. Okay. Good.
- 7 A. I just want to understand. I want to understand.
- 8 Q. Okay. I -- and I think you do.
- 9 A. Okay. Good.
- 10 Q. [Indiscernible] so even if supported by experts you
- 11 | still don't think that this is a good program for Non-English
- 12 | speaking people? That's your -- that's your opinion; right?
- 13 | It's in your report.
- 14 A. Well, that's why I -- I really, you know, I know I'm in
- 15 | a court of law, but I'm an academic and I'm -- I'm constantly
- 16 trying to really think about things, so there's one
- 17 possibility that --
- 18 Q. Applicable to this case?
- 19 A. What? No. It doesn't.
- 20 Q. Applicable --
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Well, I only want to --
- 23 A. It doesn't apply to these students at all. It has
- 24 nothing to do with these students.
- 25 Q. So when we talk about these students we're talking

- 1 | about the universe of students it's not limited to --
- 2 A. Okay.
- Q. -- to these six, it's the students at Phoenix Academy;
- 4 right? And it might be these --
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. -- students or the students you didn't interview?
- 7 A. Right. The other members of the class; right. Yeah.
- 8 | O. Right. Or -- or the ones that are still at Phoenix
- 9 Academy that you didn't interview; right? Is that a yes? It
- 10 seems like you're nodding.
- 11 THE COURT: I don't understand that question
- 12 counselor.
- MS. O'DONNELL: Okay.
- 14 THE COURT: Are you talking about the entire 350
- 15 people at Phoenix Academy or are you talking about the 18
- 16 | refugees? What are you referring to?
- MS. O'DONNELL: The 18 refugees.
- THE COURT: Okay.
- 19 THE WITNESS: That's what we're talking about
- 20 then absolutely. Yeah.
- 21 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 22 O. Why?
- 23 A. Does not -- I -- that's my opinion.
- Q. Now, let's go to the next group. What about the entire
- group, the -- the other 332 people at Phoenix Academy?

- 1 A. Okay.
- 2 Q. What about them?
- 3 A. Okay. Well I -- this wasn't in -- on my report because
- 4 | I didn't think I was asked to render an opinion.
- 5 | Q. I'm trying to understand your opinion here. So is
- 6 your -- is your report only with respect to these six
- 7 plaintiffs?
- 8 A. [Indiscernible].
- 9 Q. Or is your opinion only relevant --
- 10 A. Not the -- not --
- 11 Q. -- to these six people -- plaintiffs?
- 12 A. Not the six, the entire class that they belong to.
- 13 | Q. Okay.
- 14 A. But that doesn't mean all the English language learners
- 15 at Phoenix. It doesn't mean all.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. Do -- do -- do you get -- do you follow me? I'm not --
- 18 | Q. So what do you -- what do you understand -- well, okay.
- 19 | I don't -- I don't know yet, but let's see. What is your
- 20 understanding of the 18 people at Phoenix who constitute the
- 21 class?
- 22 A. That they're immigrants and refugees 17 to 21 years
- 23 old.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. Okay. Who have arrived -- recently arrived and were

- 1 | placed in Phoenix instead of being given a choice --
- 2 | Q. Okay.
- 3 A. -- to go to another school. And I'm -- I know there
- 4 are other students at Phoenix besides that.
- 5 Q. And so it's -- so that I understand your testimony and
- 6 | I apologize, I know you're getting tired and thirsty, so that
- 7 | I understand your opinion even if the program, the accelerated
- 8 program was supported by experts these 18 students cannot
- 9 learn, is that your -- is that what you're saying?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 | O. Okay. And based on the interviews that you conducted
- with these six kids and all the documents provided to you by
- 13 Attorney McInerney and the websites you've looked at it's your
- 14 opinion that this program even supported with experts is not
- 15 | effective in overcoming language barriers for these 18
- 16 students?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Is that your opinion?
- 19 A. That is my opinion, yes.
- 20 Q. Okay. And I'm going to -- I'm going to assume I know
- 21 | the answer to these questions, but I just want to hear you say
- 22 and I just want to hear your answers and in reaching your
- 23 conclusions that -- that you gave to do you did not meet with
- 24 any focus groups of the district consistent with ELL teachers
- 25 to survey their needs?

- 1 A. I did not.
- 2 | O. You did not conduct one or more walk in classroom
- 3 | observations to get a feel for the instruction at Phoenix?
- 4 A. I requested it. I really would've wanted to observe.
- 5 That was my regret that I was not able to go into the schools,
- 6 both schools, take a look, observe classes, talk with
- 7 | teachers, I would've wanted to do that. I -- I wasn't able to
- 8 do that, because of the schedule, because I was informed that
- 9 | it was the summer and this whole proceeding needed to take
- 10 | place before the beginning of the school year and that there
- 11 was absolutely no way that I could do that.
- 12 | Q. Did you -- did you ask someone to ask me to do the
- observations and speak with teachers?
- 14 A. Ask you?
- 15 | Q. Yes, ma'am. Did you ask your lawyers to get in touch
- 16 with someone from the School District or me to see if you
- 17 | could come in and make those observations and have those
- 18 discussions?
- 19 A. I did ask if I would be able to observe. I asked the
- 20 attorneys if I was able to observe.
- 21 Q. And they told you no?
- 22 A. I believe so. I mean I --
- 23 | Q. They told you no and so therefore you did not do the
- 24 observations and you did not have the discussions with any
- focus group teachers or with the administrators; is that

THE COURT: But then I noticed that the

individual who graduated nights ago had not been in school at

all since June even though he did not graduate until August,

23

24

25

- 1 | but maybe that will come up later as to why that was.
- 2 MS. O'DONNELL: I think his testimony was that
- 3 | the summer school was between June and July and he did go. I
- 4 think he did go.
- THE WITNESS: I'm sick of all this.
- 6 MS. O'DONNELL: Whatever. Okay. We'll -- we'll
- 7 move beyond that.
- 8 THE COURT: Doesn't matter.
- 9 MS. O'DONNELL: I understand.
- 10 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 11 | O. And again you -- you were unable to meet with
- 12 administrators or any of their consultants to learn about
- 13 current programs now being implemented with respect to the ESL
- 14 | instruction; is that a yes?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 THE COURT: And it's possible, ma'am, that you
- 17 | will be able to supplement your report before the final
- 18 | hearing by actually getting to go in and see the different
- 19 classes, that's possible.
- 20 THE WITNESS: Is that possible?
- 21 | THE COURT: I think. I don't know. It seems
- 22 like it would be.
- THE WITNESS: Why are we laughing?
- 24 THE COURT: Unless everybody reaches an
- 25 agreement as to the resolution.

1 | THE WITNESS: Why are both of you laughing?

- 2 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 3 Q. Well, because --
- 4 THE COURT: Because it's not that serious, you
- 5 | have to relax. It's not -- you're getting all the information
- 6 out that you need to get out and you're doing it very
- 7 | effectively.
- 8 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 9 Q. Are you familiar -- I -- should we break for the night?
- 10 | I -- you look exhausted and I'm -- I'm feeling like maybe if
- 11 | you started fresh in the morning you'd be able to --
- 12 A. Well, could --
- 13 | Q. -- handle these questions better.
- 14 A. I know I'm not supposed to --
- THE COURT: I think counsel --
- 16 THE WITNESS: I know I'm not supposed to ask you
- 17 | a question, but can I ask you a question?
- 18 BY MS. O'DONNELL:
- 19 Q. No. I'm sorry. It's not the way it works.
- 20 A. I just need to ask you one thing.
- 21 THE COURT: What is it, ma'am.
- 22 THE WITNESS: Is this going to --
- MS. O'DONNELL: Would you ask the Judge?
- 24 THE COURT: Yeah, what is it?
- THE WITNESS: I -- I just --

1	MS.	0	'DONNELL:	Ask	the	Judge.
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- THE WITNESS: I just need to know about how much
- 3 | longer is this -- can anyone estimate how much longer this
- 4 cross is going to take.
- THE COURT: That's a great question.
- 6 MS. O'DONNELL: That's -- it is a good question,
- 7 | but I'm thinking around 5:30 it's going to be a little bit
- 8 | while, just because it seems like we're engaging in more
- 9 dialogue.
- 10 THE COURT: Were you planning to return home
- 11 | tonight, ma'am.
- 12 THE WITNESS: Huh?
- 13 | THE COURT: Were you planning to remain for the
- 14 rest of the hearing or were you planning to --
- 15 MS. MCINERNEY: She was if she's able to do so.
- 16 THE COURT: She was going to remain here or go
- 17 home?
- 18 | MS. MCINERNEY: She was going to go.
- 19 THE WITNESS: No, I'm not -- I'm not trying to
- 20 leave. I'm just --
- 21 THE COURT: No. No.
- 22 THE WITNESS: I'm just wanting to know how much
- 23 | longer?
- MS. O'DONNELL: Well, I'm -- I'm thinking --
- MS. MCINERNEY: We're fine with staying until

Page 106 1 5:30. 2. THE COURT: Sure. 3 THE WITNESS: Okay. THE COURT: So that -- 5:30. 4 THE WITNESS: 5:30? 5 6 MS. O'DONNELL: Okay. 7 BY MS. O'DONNELL: Are you familiar with an educational expert by the name 8 9 of Sicora Hererra [ph]? 10 Α. No. Okay. And again, I'm going to mention this person's 11 12 name again, are you familiar with an educational expert by the name of Vivian Fialoe [ph]? 13 14 Α. Fialoe? 15 Q. Fialoe? 16 No. Α. 17 Yes. And are you aware of whether or not the School 18 District of Lancaster is using the methods that have been 19 published by Dr. Hererra with respect to culturally relevant 20 biography driven instruction? Culturally relevant biography driven instruction? Α.

- 21
- Yes, ma'am. 22 Ο.
- 23 No, I'm not.
- Okay. Are you familiar with a person -- have you ever 24
- 25 heard the name or did you in your research find the name of

- 1 Ana De La Pena [ph] who is a person associated with Patan [ph]
- 2 which is an arm or a program of the Pennsylvania Department of
- 3 Education?
- 4 A. No, I'm not.
- 5 Q. Okay. And would it have been important to you to know
- 6 whether or not any of these educational consultants and
- 7 experts are working together with the School District of
- 8 | Lancaster in order to work on their ESL instruction programs?
- 9 A. It would be important for me to know if they have
- 10 expertise in the area of limited formally schooled students
- 11 which is its own special field within a field and is entirely
- 12 | different from basic English language learner program
- consultation that hundreds of us do.
- 14 Q. I understand. And if you -- if you had access to those
- 15 consultants would that have been helpful to you in perform --
- 16 in preparing your report and for your testimony today?
- 17 | A. I can't have any way of knowing how helpful it would've
- 18 been, because I don't know there is expertise or their
- 19 background.
- 20 Q. Okay. Do you think it's important that the School
- 21 District of Lancaster has brought in consultants over the last
- 22 three or four years to assist with the revision and
- 23 | improvements of their English language instruction classes
- including those at Phoenix Academy?
- 25 A. I think it's always good to bring in consultants to

- 1 | help you improve your program.
- 2 Q. Okay. Now, with respect to your opinion concerning the
- daily homework assignments were you aware that the students
- 4 | start -- are able to come into the building before and stay
- 5 | after school in order to get extra instruction and tutoring?
- 6 A. Yes, I am aware of that.
- 7 | Q. And were you aware that students were able to ask for
- 8 | photocopies of anything that they looked at during the day in
- 9 order to take it home and practice if they wished?
- 10 A. I am aware of that.
- 11 Q. You are aware of that? And were you -- did you --
- 12 | when -- in during your interviews of any of these students did
- 13 you ascertain how much time the students take on their own to
- 14 | study additional English language or any of the core
- 15 | curriculum their taught?
- 16 A. How much time they take? You mean during the before
- 17 | and after school? Or do you mean at home at night.
- 18 Q. Home at night or on weekends?
- 19 A. Well, I know that we kid hear about some tutoring.
- 20 Q. Okay. Did you ask whether the students were taking
- 21 | any -- were making any effort or taking any initiative to do
- 22 some work on their own in order to be more successful in their
- 23 classes at Phoenix?
- 24 A. What would -- what would those, oh, yeah, I can't ask
- 25 you questions.

- 1 Q. Right. Did -- what -- so my question is was it --
- 2 | what -- let me rephrase that. Okay. Because you obviously
- 3 | didn't understand what I was asking you, so let's try it this
- 4 | way. Was it -- was it important to you that the students made
- 5 some effort to learn on their own outside of school?
- 6 A. It was important to me that they be provided with the
- 7 | materials relating to their classes and their curriculum and
- 8 that they be able to reinforce that material as opposed to
- 9 going out and getting additional material that was separate
- 10 | and apart from the courses therapy trying to take and pass at
- 11 Phoenix.
- 12 Q. Okay. Now, on page 15 of your report actually it
- 13 | starts at the bottom of 14, but actually on my copy it doesn't
- 14 | have a number 14 at the bottom of the page, so I'm going to
- 15 ask you to make that leap of faith in the inference that it is
- 16 page 14 and at the very bottom there's a subheading that says
- 17 McCaskey High School ESL, pardon me, ESOL Programing; do you
- 18 see that?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Okay. Where did you get all this information to talk
- 23 about the programming at McCaskey? Was this from the website
- 24 or from some other place?
- 25 A. No. Not the website. As it -- as it says this was

- 1 | from the survey, survey review.
- 2 | Q. It says ESL Department Internal Review 2015, but that
- 3 seems to qualify the first sentence.
- 4 A. And from the --
- 5 | O. Do you agree with me that that citation seems to
- 6 | qualify the first sentence?
- 7 A. Well, when I say there are many features I put the
- 8 source and then the following paragraph gives details that
- 9 were found at that source.
- 10 | Q. At that source. So from the district's information you
- 11 | found that level one entering students receive a full three
- 12 hours of direct ESOL instruction?
- 13 A. It says so in the survey.
- 14 Q. And then three hours of sheltered core curriculum
- 15 provided?
- 16 A. It says so in the survey.
- 17 | Q. And so you relied exclusively on a survey in order
- 18 to --
- 19 A. But this survey was the official, it was the ESL
- 20 Department's evaluation of their program and that was what I
- 21 | was provided with that was giving me a window to how their
- 22 program ran and how successful it was.
- 23 | O. Okay.
- 24 A. It was an official document from the District.
- 25 Q. And do you know what date that official document was

- 1 | published?
- 2 | A. Yes, those documents were filled out at the end of the
- year. The end of the school year 2014-15 and 2015-16.
- 4 Q. Okay. And then it -- it goes on and I know you said
- 5 | you don't have a -- a strong background in, but you included
- 6 | this in your report so I do want cover it?
- 7 A. Well, in what?
- 8 | Q. Fifteen, continuing down that paragraph I know you said
- 9 | you didn't have a strong background in this, but it's in your
- 10 report so I want to cover it. In the last line of that
- 11 paragraph it said there's a strong -- oh, I see, home school
- 12 connection, that means -- what does that mean?
- 13 A. Oh, no. No. No. No. Oh, I'm sorry. I
- 14 | apologize. Home schooling, home school, okay. So what I --
- 15 when I say home school connection, I mean reaching out to
- 16 | families, making them feel connected to the school, parent
- teacher conferences, that's what home school connection.
- 18 Q. And do you know whether or not that home school
- 19 connection is available to the children at Phoenix Academy
- 20 through their accelerated program?
- 21 A. What -- home school connection is --
- 22 | Q. I understand, a visit?
- 23 A. -- a general term.
- 24 O. Right.
- 25 A. It's not a specific --

- 1 | Q. I'm with you. Completely on board with you.
- 2 A. Okay.
- Q. So if you have someone coming from the school visiting
- 4 the student at home, discussing education with the student and
- 5 | their families that would be a home school connection; right?
- 6 A. That would be a visitation.
- 7 Q. Okay. And what --
- 8 A. Home school connection has to do with having families
- 9 feel connected to the school, comfortable going into the
- 10 | school, comfortable being a part of activities at the school,
- 11 | having activities sponsored by the school that are targeted to
- 12 | the English language learner families that are new to the
- 13 district. It's having a whole program, a whole array of
- 14 services that are available to connect the home and the
- 15 | school. It's not simply a matter of visiting the school or
- 16 | having even a parent teacher conference. Those are two very
- 17 minimal approaches.
- 18 Q. Nevertheless.
- 19 A. Okay.
- 20 Q. Do you know if that home school connection that you've
- 21 just described --
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 | O. -- as the whole array of services is available to the
- 24 students at Phoenix and their families?
- 25 A. It -- it did not appear that when I -- when I looked at

- 1 | the survey and the answers on the survey from the Phoenix
- 2 person as opposed to the McCaskey person.
- Q. Okay. But because you didn't interview anyone from
- 4 | either of those schools you weren't able to ask the question
- 5 | about whether those services were available to the Phoenix
- 6 | kids; right?
- 7 A. Services. I [indiscernible].
- 8 Q. The array.
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 | O. You just talked about; remember?
- 11 A. Yeah.
- 12 | Q. Okay. Because -- my question is because you weren't
- able to interview any of the administrators.
- 14 A. Right.
- 15 | Q. At either building you didn't know whether or not those
- 16 services were actually available for the kids at Phoenix;
- 17 right?
- 18 A. I am relying on the survey and the information provided
- 19 by the ESL Department as to what was provided.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. And so even though I didn't talk to the officials
- 22 you've referred to these official communicated to me via
- 23 official document. Ah, that's not --
- Q. Okay. That's fine. I'd like to move on now --
- 25 A. Okay.

- 1 | Q. -- to page 16.
- 2 A. Which one?
- 3 Q. Page 16.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 Q. And come down to the fourth sentence that begins the
- 6 instruction is required to be sufficient. Do you see that?
- 7 A. Not yet. What page again?
- 8 | Q. I'm on page 16 and it's under your subheading in bold
- 9 | three that begins SDO -- SDOL failed. Do you see that?
- 10 A. Yes. Yes.
- 11 Q. And if you come down almost to the end of that first
- 12 paragraph.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. To the -- to the fourth line down that begins the
- 15 | instruction is required to be sufficient? Do you see that?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And then you say in the number of minutes per day for
- 18 | entering level students to progress a minimum of 120 minutes
- 19 per day and then you cite the Pennsylvania Department of
- 20 Education 2009.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 | Q. Okay. Is that a standard? I believe you testified in
- 23 your direct examination that was a standard. Is that how it
- 24 was identified on the PDE website?
- 25 A. Is -- standard as opposed to what?

- 1 Q. Well, that was your testimony, I'm asking you to
- 2 explain what you meant by standard?
- 3 A. Well, it says required to be sufficient in the number
- $4 \mid$ of minutes, so this is a -- this is a recommendation.
- 5 Q. More like a guideline?
- 6 A. Well, stronger than a guideline I think. They expect
- 7 | it.
- 8 Q. Okay. And then I'd like you to come back or flip over
- 9 to page 17 and if you come down in the first full paragraph
- 10 that begins at Phoenix.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And you come all the way down almost again to the
- 13 bottom.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 | Q. You have a citation there interview July 14, 2016.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 | Q. Okay. And the next sentence begins at Phoenix.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. ESOL instruction is concentrated in a single 80 minute
- 20 block.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Do you see that?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Now, this follows apparently your interview of July 14,
- 25 | 2016 with Khadidja Issa does it not?

- 1 A. That's not the citation though. The citation goes to
- 2 the prior sentence.
- 3 Q. So the prior sentence says Khadidja reported that she
- 4 | did not understand the English class and said specifically
- 5 that she was not learning the English language in her ESOL
- 6 | block and then you have in parentheses interview July 14,
- 7 | 2016; is that correct?
- 8 A. Correct. Correct.
- 9 Q. And then your next sentence reads --
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 | Q. At Phoenix ESOL instruction is concentrated in a single
- 12 | 80 minute block.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 | Q. And entering level students are students receiving no
- 15 | further direct ESOL instruction for the rest of the school
- 16 day; is that correct?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And my question is where did you get that information?
- 19 A. The -- the information -- the information on the 80
- 20 minute block for entering students?
- 21 Q. Yes, ma'am.
- 22 A. Okay. Just a second. The 80 minute block, just a
- 23 minute. And I needed to put the source there. The -- on the
- 24 transcript they have ESL for one period and my understanding
- is that that's how long that period is.

1 | Q. Okay. And on the transcript and we're talking about

- 2 | the student's grades, the student transcript, the records, you
- 3 also read those to exclude any further ESL instruction for the
- 4 balance of the day?
- 5 A. Direct ESL instruction.
- 6 Q. And it was based on that document that helped you form
- 7 this conclusion?
- 8 A. I'm sorry, say again.
- 9 Q. Based on the reviews -- your review of the student
- 10 | transcripts you formulated the conclusion that the students
- 11 only receive one 80 minute block of ESL per day at the Phoenix
- 12 Academy?
- 13 A. There was only one entry for ESL for every student. It
- 14 said ESL only once.
- 15 | Q. And my question to you is -- not -- I'm not disputing
- 16 what it said, but based on your review of that document, you
- made an inference that there was only one 80 minute block of
- 18 | ESL instruction per day; is that correct and is that
- 19 inference --
- 20 A. Direct ESL instruction. Yes.
- 21 | Q. Memorialized in your report on page 17 that we just
- 22 reviewed?
- 23 A. Direct. Yes.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. Yes. I -- yes.

- 1 | Q. Now, I think I'm going to finish here. I'm going to
- 2 ask you one more question.
- 3 A. Okay.
- 4 Q. Okay. In your opinion if you had a student that comes
- 5 in, your SLIFE student who comes in as a 17 year old with
- 6 credits to 11th grade.
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. According to your opinion he should be placed at
- 9 McCaskey in their one year international school in order that
- 10 | he might graduate; is that correct?
- 11 | A. Well, with wouldn't say in order that he might
- 12 graduate. I would just take that part off.
- 13 | Q. So we're not really focused on graduate your opinion is
- 14 | not really focused --
- 15 | A. Well, let --
- 16 Q. -- on graduation?
- 17 | A. Can -- well, did, are you asking a question? Do you
- 18 | want to ask the -- go ahead ask the question. I'm sorry.
- 19 Q. Are you focusing as an end goal on graduation or not?
- 20 A. I am focusing on prioritizing overcoming language
- 21 | barriers and accessing the core curriculum. I'm prioritizing
- 22 | that because that is what's mandated for these students. That
- 23 | is the priority.
- 24 | O. I understand that what is mandated in terms of
- 25 | curriculum. I think we agree on that; okay?

- 1 A. Okay.
- 2 | Q. But if you have a student who comes in with -- who's 17
- 3 | years with education to 11th grade and wants to graduate on
- 4 | time he would go to the international school for one year and
- 5 get those credits; right?
- 6 A. He would -- he would go -- he's 17?
- 7 Q. Yes and he's not special ed.
- 8 A. Right. So as opposed to Phoenix; right?
- 9 Q. Yes.
- 10 A. Yes. Okay. So what I would say is if I can just have
- 11 an open answer.
- 12 Q. Yes, absolutely.
- 13 A. Instead of a yes or a no, I or I --
- 14 Q. Just, I'm just trying to -- to --
- 15 A. Right. So here's --
- 16 Q. -- elicit whether, you know, you -- you understand that
- 17 | there is a methodology for these students to be able to
- 18 | graduate --
- 19 A. Yes, I understand that.
- 20 | Q. -- on time.
- 21 A. And what I -- my opinion and based on everything about
- 22 | this case and I've been living with it, okay. So we all have,
- 23 | it is my conclusion that these students have a better chance
- of graduating faster by going to McCaskey if we think of
- graduation as meaningful, not simply grades on a transcript,

1 but really understanding the material and understanding

2 | English, because at McCaskey, again, they get the runway, the

3 | plane gets the runway, they get a great foundation, they're

4 taking their subject areas right away, they're in a cohort,

5 | everything we just -- I don't need to repeat, all the things

about the international school, it is so strong and powerful

7 | that one year sets them up and then they can light the world

8 on fire. They can go to summer school. They can go extended

9 day. They can do whatever they wish and I think that they

10 have a better chance, actually I think that the Phoenix model

11 the way it exists is retarding their progress.

12 Q. I understand that.

6

- 13 A. And that is my view.
- 14 | Q. Okay. It -- would it be true though that if they

15 graduated after that year they would still be a beginner ELL

16 | in terms of the -- the WIDA levels? They'd still be at an

entrance level or a beginner; wouldn't they?

18 A. Not necessarily, because some of them maybe very good

19 | language learners and they may move through the levels faster

20 | than you would thing, because some -- some students are --

21 | every student as an individual as a language learning and we

22 need to give them their best shot if they're in the

23 international school they're getting their best chance,

24 | they're getting everything to support them all day, English,

25 homework at night and those who are really good at language

- 1 | learning and who are bright they may go from entering to
- 2 emerging, they may move through more quickly through the
- 3 levels of English because of all the support they're getting.
- 4 Q. And so if -- if we were to convince you that those
- 5 | levels of support can be delivered to the students at Phoenix
- 6 | would you agree with me that the -- the accelerated system is
- 7 | as equally effective as the system at McCaskey?
- 8 A. Impossible, because the system is the emersion model.
- 9 They cannot be with native speakers of English. The SLIFE and
- 10 the native speakers can't be together. They can't -- at the
- 11 get-go, you can't do that. That -- that's the reason. That's
- 12 the deal breaker.
- 13 | Q. And -- and is it because -- do you understand that
- 14 | the -- the each class -- you understand that each class at
- 15 | Phoenix is 80 minutes long?
- 16 A. It doesn't matter the length, it matters, it matters
- 17 | that they're with mainstream students in a mainstream
- 18 | curriculum with a teacher without the ESL training very
- 19 | special training you need to even work with SLIFE even beyond
- 20 regular ESL. I all to relearn it as you remember when I moved
- 21 to Green Bay, so Phoenix just isn't going to be able to do
- 22 that.
- 23 Q. Okay. All right. Thank you very much.
- 24 A. Okay.
- 25 THE COURT: Thank you counselor. Attorney

- 1 | McInerney, do you have any redirect?
- MS. MCINERNEY: Your Honor, I just had two quick
- 3 things.
- 4 THE COURT: Certainly.
- 5 | - -
- 6 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 7 | - -
- 8 BY MS. MCINERNEY:
- 9 Q. In your testimony you had referenced a document that
- 10 stated that student receive three hours of ESL instruction as
- 11 | well as three hours of core content. And was this ESL
- department of Internal Review Survey for McCaskey 2015-2016?
- 13 | Is that the one that you were referring to?
- 14 A. Well, it could have been either year.
- 15 Q. Either one.
- 16 A. I'm not looking. There were two years.
- 17 Q. Okay. I just have one last question.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Did you have sufficient information to evaluate the
- 20 accelerated program at Phoenix and it's English -- it's
- 21 | emersion language instruction program to determine whether it
- 22 was educationally sound theory and to look at the policies,
- 23 practices and resources to determine whether it was being
- 24 implemented? Did you have sufficient information to do that?
- 25 A. I believe that I had sufficient information, yes.

- 1 | Q. And did you have sufficient information to determine
- 2 | whether the School District has a program -- is produces
- 3 results indicating that the barriers are being overcome that
- 4 | the language barriers are being overcome?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. Did you have sufficient information?
- 7 A. I did have sufficient information for a confident
- 8 opinion, yes.
- 9 Q. Thank you so much.
- 10 THE COURT: Thank you counselor. Attorney
- 11 O'Donnell.
- MS. O'DONNELL: Nothing further, Your Honor.
- 13 THE COURT: Very well, thank you counselor. Dr.
- Marshall, I do want to thank you very much for your testimony
- 15 here today. I realize this is the first time you've testified
- 16 as an expert witness. You did an outstanding job.
- 17 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 18 THE COURT: We appreciate your information and
- 19 your testimony.
- THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 21 THE COURT: Have a good rest of the night.
- 22 | Counselor is there anything else before we adjourn for the
- 23 day.
- 24 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Your Honor. We have exhibits
- 25 to move into the evidence.

- THE COURT: And you want to do that before --
- 2 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Given the hour, I --
- THE COURT: Oh, you may step down. Oh, yes.
- 4 You can -- [indiscernible]. Absolutely.
- 5 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Given the hour I'm happy to do
- 6 that tomorrow.
- 7 THE COURT: Actually thanks to Attorney
- 8 | O'Donnell we're done a little earlier than we thought. But it
- 9 | is still late and I -- I think maybe it's best that we address
- 10 that tomorrow. It's probably not going to be an issue. I
- 11 | don't happen if anything's going to be contested. And then we
- 12 can finish out the plaintiff's case and that is your last
- 13 | witness; is that correct?
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: That is our last live witness.
- 15 | So --
- 16 THE COURT: And then we can begin -- now do you
- 17 know which witness you're going to have to call first now that
- 18 | both have to testify in the morning?
- 19 MS. O'DONNELL: I think -- I think yes, Amber
- 20 [indiscernible] will be first.
- 21 THE COURT: Very well.
- 22 MR. ROTHSCHILD: And may I ask what are the
- 23 other witnesses that will be called tomorrow, because I -- I
- 24 know we won't get up to all of your witnesses tomorrow?
- MS. O'DONNELL: Well, definitely [indiscernible]

1	Hisey.	And	then	I'11		I'11	have	to	advise	you.
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- 2 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Okay. If you could advise us,
- 3 you know, in the next couple hours that would be really
- 4 helpful. Actually [indiscernible] advise then.
- 5 MS. O'DONNELL: So [indiscernible].
- 6 MR. ROTHSCHILD: [Indiscernible].
- 7 MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you.
- 8 MR. ROTHSCHILD: All right. Thank you.
- 9 THE COURT: Counselor if nothing else for
- 10 | tonight we'll stand in recess. Now, I've been starting on
- 11 9:30 on the assumption that people have to travel a long way
- 12 | to get here. Is 9:30 an appropriate time to start, because we
- can start much earlier or much later whatever's the most
- 14 | convenient for everyone?
- 15 MS. O'DONNELL: I actually have people traveling
- 16 so I -- I [indiscernible] wise to start --
- THE COURT: 9:30 is the best for you?
- MS. O'DONNELL: Yes.
- 19 THE COURT: Very well. We'll keep it at 9:30.
- MR. ROTHSCHILD: Thank you, Your Honor.
- MS. O'DONNELL: Okay. Thank you.
- THE COURT: You're welcome.
- DEPUTY CLERK: All rise.
- 24
- 25 (Whereupon, the proceeding was concluded

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