



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

August 25, 2021



Ms. Trinell Bowman
Associate Superintendent – Special Education
Prince Georges County Public Schools
1400 Nalley Terrace
Landover, Maryland 20785

RE: 
Reference: #22-004

Dear Parties:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services, has completed the investigation of the complaint regarding special education services for the above-referenced student. This correspondence is the report of the final results of the investigation.

ALLEGATION:

On July 19, 2021, the MSDE received a complaint from Mr.  and Ms.  hereafter, “the complainants,” on behalf of their son, the above-referenced student. In that correspondence, the complainant alleged that the Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) violated certain provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) with respect to their son.

The MSDE investigated the allegation that the PGCPS did not ensure that the May 21, 2021 offer of services to remediate the loss of transition services during the 2020-2021 school year was designed to provide the student with a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.101 and .324.

BACKGROUND:

The student is nineteen (19) years old and was identified as a student with Autism under the IDEA. He had an IEP that required the provision of special education instruction and related services until his graduation with a Maryland High School Diploma, in June 2021, from the , a private separate day school, where he was placed by the PGCPS.


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FINDING OF FACT:

On May 21, 2021, the IEP team decided to offer the student 142.5 hours of compensatory services to refine his job readiness skills in order to compensate him for the loss of vocational training at a jobsite in the community, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The IEP team considered information that the student had made sufficient progress on the annual IEP goals during virtual learning, and had been able to complete all other transition activities. The team also considered information that the student had completed all course requirements, State assessment requirements, and service learning hour requirements to earn a Maryland High School Diploma.

CONCLUSION:

In this case, the complainants allege that the student should be enrolled in another year of high school as a remedy for the loss of vocational training at a jobsite in the community.

Based on the above Finding of Fact, the MSDE finds that the IEP team's decision regarding the amount and nature of compensatory services was consistent with the data. Therefore, this office does not find that a violation occurred with respect to the allegation.

As of the date of this correspondence, this Letter of Findings is considered final. This office will not reconsider the conclusions reached in this Letter of Findings unless new, previously unavailable documentation is submitted and received by this office within fifteen (15) days of the date of this correspondence. The new documentation must support a written request for reconsideration, and the written request must include a compelling reason for why the documentation was not made available during the investigation. Pending this office's decision on a request for reconsideration, the public agency must implement any corrective actions within the timelines reported in this Letter of Findings.

The parties maintain the right to request mediation or to file a due process complaint, if they disagree with the identification, evaluation, placement, or provision of a FAPE for the student, including issues subject to this State complaint investigation, consistent with the IDEA. The MSDE recommends that this Letter of Findings be included with any request for mediation or a due process complaint.

Sincerely,

Marcella E. Franczkowski, M.S.
Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Early Intervention/Special Education Services

MEF:dee

c: Monica Goldson
Kerry Morrison
Dori Wilson
Diane Eisenstadt

Barbara VanDyke

Anita Mandis