




Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

May 13, 2022




Ms. Trinell Bowman
Associate Superintendent-Special Education
Prince George's County Public Schools
John Carroll Administration Building 1400 Nalley Terrace
Hyattsville, Maryland 20785

RE: 
Reference: #22-118

Dear Parties:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Early Intervention Special Education Services (DEI/SES), 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.

ALLEGATIONS:

On March 18, 2022, the MSDE received a complaint from Mr.  hereafter, "the complainant," on behalf of 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 the above-referenced student.

The MSDE investigated the following allegations:

1. The PGCPS has not ensured that the student's bus aide was "trained on specific strategies to support a safe and positive bus ride" as required by his Individualized Education Program (IEP) since November 1, 2021, in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.101 and 323.
2. The PGCPS has not ensured that the student's parents were provided with weekly behavioral data as required by his IEP since August 30, 2021, in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.101 and 323.

BACKGROUND:

The student is placed by the PGCPs at [REDACTED] a nonpublic, separate, special education school. He is identified as a student with Autism under the IDEA and has an IEP that requires the provision of special education instruction and related services.

FINDINGS OF FACTS:

1. The student's IEP, in effect on August 30, 2021 requires that staff working with the student on the bus be “trained on specific strategies to support a safe and positive bus ride” and that the complainants be provided with home school communication, including weekly behavioral data.
2. There is documentation that staff working with the student on the bus have been trained in behavioral strategies to assist the student during transportation and that the complainant has been provided with home school communication including weekly behavioral data for the student.

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS:

Allegation #1

Based on the Findings of Facts, #1-2, the MSDE finds that the student’s bus aides were trained in strategies to keep the student safe on the bus, as required by his IEP since November 1, 2021, in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.101 and 323. Therefore, the MSDE does not find that a violation occurred with respect to this allegation.

Allegation #2

Based on the Findings of Facts, #1-2, the MSDE finds that the student’s parents were provided with weekly behavioral data as required by his IEP since August 30, 2021, in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.101 and 323. Therefore, the MSDE does not find that a violation occurred with respect to this allegation.

TIMELINE:

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.

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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 Free Appropriate Public Education (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:gl

c: Monica Goldson
Barbara VanDyke
Keith Marston
Gail Viens
Darnell Henderson
Gerald Loiacono