



May 9, 2023



Ms. Colleen Sasdelli
Director of Special Education
Harford County Public Schools
102 South Hickory Avenue
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

RE: 
Reference: #23-173

Dear Parties:

The Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Intervention/Special Education Services (MSDE), 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 March 15, 2023, MSDE received a complaint from Ms. , hereafter, “the complainant,” on behalf of her son, the above-referenced student. In that correspondence, the complainant alleged that the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) violated certain provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) with respect to the above-referenced student.

MSDE investigated the allegation that the HCPS has not ensured that the student has been consistently provided with the assistive technology, extended time, chunking of information, and chunking of assignments, as required by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) since the start of the 2022-2023 school year, in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.101 and .323.

BACKGROUND:

The student is thirteen years old and is identified as a student with an Other Health Impairment under the IDEA. He attends  School, and has an IEP that requires the provision of special education instruction.

FINDINGS OF FACTS:

1. The student's IEP, in effect at the start of the 2022- 2023 school year, was developed on April 7, 2022. The IEP requires that the student be provided with:
 - use of a calculator across all content areas;
 - use of a word processor for extended writing assignments
 - extended time (1.5X); and
 - daily chunking of information and assignments.
2. On March 9, 2023, the IEP team convened for the student's annual review. The IEP team determined that the student continued to require the use of a calculator and word processor, as well as extended time and daily chunking of information and assignments.
3. There is documentation that on September 6, 2022, the student was issued a Chromebook that included a word processing program and a calculator.
4. There is documentation that the student has use of a calculator across all content areas, and the use of a word processor for extended writing assignments, as required by the IEP.
5. There is documentation that the student was provided extended time, as required by the IEP since the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.
6. There is documentation that the student was provided daily chunking of information and assignments, as required by the IEP since the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the Findings of Facts #1 to #6, MSDE finds that the HCPS has ensured that the student has been consistently provided with the assistive technology, extended time, chunking of information, and chunking of assignments, as required by the IEP since the start of the 2022-2023 school year, in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.101 and .323. Therefore, this office does not find that a violation occurred with respect to the allegation.

TIMELINES:

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 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 Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for the student, including issues subject to this State complaint investigation, consistent with the IDEA. MSDE

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recommends that this Letter of Findings be included with any request for mediation or a due process complaint.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deann M. Collins

Deputy Superintendent

Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

DMC/tg

c: Sean Bulson

Alison Barmat

Gerald Loiacono

Diane Eisenstadt

Tracy Givens

Nicole Elliott

Paige Bradford