

May 1, 2025



Allison Myers
Executive Director
Baltimore County Public Schools
105 W. Chesapeake Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21204

Re: [REDACTED]
Reference: #25-307

Dear Parties:

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

ALLEGATIONS:

On March 3, 2025, MSDE received a complaint from [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], hereafter, "the complainants," on behalf of the above-referenced student. In that correspondence, the complainant alleged the Baltimore County Public School (BCPS) violated certain provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) concerning the student.

MSDE is investigating the allegation that the BCPS has not provided the student with special education and related services in the placement required by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) since December 2024, in accordance with 34 CFR §§ 300.114. and .116.

BACKGROUND:

The student is ten years old and is identified as a student with Autism under the IDEA. The student attends [REDACTED] School and has an IEP that requires the provision of special education instruction and related services.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION:

In its written response, the BCPS acknowledges a violation occurred with respect to the allegations. Specifically, BCPS acknowledges it has not provided the student with special education and related services in the placement required by the IEP since December 2024.

MSDE concurs and appreciates BCPS' acknowledgement that a violation occurred.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AND TIMELINES:

The IDEA requires that State complaint procedures include effective implementation of the decisions made as a result of a State complaint investigation, including technical assistance activities, negotiations, and corrective actions to achieve compliance (34 CFR § 300.152). Accordingly, MSDE requires the public agency to provide documentation of the completion of the corrective actions listed below.

MSDE has established reasonable time frames below to ensure that noncompliance is corrected in a timely manner¹. This office will follow up with the public agency to ensure that it completes the required actions consistent with the MSDE Special Education State Complaint Resolution Procedures.

If the public agency anticipates that any of the time frames below may not be met, or if either party seeks technical assistance, they should contact Ms. Nicole Green, Compliance Specialist, Family Support and Dispute Resolution Branch, MSDE, to ensure the effective implementation of the action². Ms. Green can be reached at (410) 767-7770 or by email at nicole.green@maryland.gov.

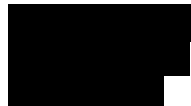
Student-Specific

By June 24, 2025, MSDE requires the BCPS to provide documentation that the school system has convened an IEP team meeting to address the negative impact resulting from the violation identified in this Letter of Finding and determine the amount and nature of compensatory services or other remedies to redress the violation and developed a plan for the provision of those services within one year of the date of this Letter of Findings.

The BCPS must ensure that the parent is provided with prior written notice of the team's decisions. The parent maintains the right to request mediation or to file a due process complaint to resolve any disagreement with the team's decisions.

¹ The United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) states that the public agency correct noncompliance in a timely manner, which is as soon as possible, but not later than one year from the date of identification of the noncompliance. The OSEP has indicated that, in some circumstances, providing the remedy could take more than one year to complete. If noncompliance is not corrected in a timely manner, the MSDE is required to provide technical assistance to the public agency, and take tiered enforcement action, involving progressive steps that could result in the redirecting, targeting, or withholding of funds, as appropriate.

² MSDE will notify the public agency's Director of Special Education of any corrective action that has not been completed within the established timeframe.


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As of the date of this correspondence this Letter of Findings is considered final. unless one of the parties requests a reconsideration. Requests for reconsideration must be received by this office within fifteen days of the date that the Letter of Findings is issued. However, 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, or there was a clear mistake of law in the findings. The new documentation must support a written request for reconsideration, and the written request must include a compelling reason why the documentation was not made available during the investigation. Requests for reconsideration should be sent directly to Tracy Givens, Section Chief, Dispute Resolution at Tracy.Givens@maryland.gov. There are no timelines to receive a finding after a request for reconsideration. 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 recommends that this Letter of Findings be included with any request for mediation or a due process complaint.

Sincerely,

Antoine L. Hickman, Ed.D.
Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Special Education

ALH/kt

C: Dr. Myriam Rogers, Superintendent, BCPS
Dr. Jason Miller, Coordinator, Special Education Compliance, BCPS
Norma Villanueva, Compliance Specialist, BCPS
,  School, Principal, BCPS
Dr. Brian Morrison, Director, Accountability and Data, MSDE
Dr. Paige Bradford, Section Chief, Performance Support and Technical Assistance, MSDE
Tracy Givens, Section Chief, Dispute Resolution, MSDE
Kimberlee Taylor, Complaint Investigator, MSDE