

April 15, 2025

[REDACTED]

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

Re: [REDACTED]
Reference: #25-313

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 letter is the final report for this investigation.

ALLEGATION:

On March 28, 2025, MSDE received a complaint from [REDACTED], hereafter, “the complainant,” on behalf of the above-referenced student. In that correspondence, the complainant alleged Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) violated certain provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) concerning this student.

MSDE investigated the allegation that the PGCPS has not ensured the student has been consistently provided with quarterly progress reports toward achieving the annual Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals since February 11, 2025, in accordance with 34 CFR §§ 300.320.

BACKGROUND:

The student is six years old and is identified as a student with a speech-language impairment 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 PGCPS acknowledges the violation occurred with respect to the allegation. Specifically, the PGCPS acknowledges the quarterly progress reports were not provided as required by the IEP, since February 11, 2025.

MSDE concurs and appreciates PGCPs' acknowledgment that a violation occurred. Notwithstanding the violation, MSDE finds that the PGCPs has provided the student with the second quarter progress reports on April 2, 2025. Therefore, no further student-specific corrective action is required.

CORRECTIVE ACTION AND TIMELINES:

The IDEA requires that State complaint procedures include those for 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 timeframes below to ensure that noncompliance is corrected in a timely manner.¹ This office will follow up with the public agency to ensure that it completes the required actions consistent with 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 action.² Ms. Green can be reached at (410) 767-7770 or by email at nicole.green@maryland.gov.

School-Based

By June 15, 2025, the PGCPs must provide a monitoring report for 15 randomly selected students with IEPs reflecting the provision of quarterly progress reports for each quarter of the 2024-2025 school year. Full compliance is required. If 100% compliance is not met, a second sample will be selected. If the second sample does not meet full compliance, MSDE will consult with PGCPs on next steps.

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 why the documentation was not made available during the investigation. The written requests for reconsideration should be provided to Tracy Givens, Section Chief, Dispute Resolution via email Tracy.Givens@maryland.gov. 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.

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, 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.

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 Early Intervention and Special Education Services

ALH/kt

c: Millard House II, Chief Executive Office, PGCPs
Keith Marston, Compliance Instructional Supervisor, PGCPs
Lois Jones-Smith, Compliance Liaison, PGCPs
Darnell Henderson, General Counsel, PGCPs
William Fields, Associate General Counsel, PGCPs
[REDACTED], Principal, [REDACTED] School, PGCPs
Dr. Brian Morrison, Branch Chief, 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
Nicole Green, Compliance Specialist, MSDE