




**Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.**  
State Superintendent of Schools

November 1, 2019




Ms. Trinell Bowman  
Director of Special Education  
Prince George's County Public Schools  
1400 Nalley Terrace  
Landover, Maryland 20785

RE:   
Reference: #20-032

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 September 16, 2019, the 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 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 allegation that the PGCPS has not followed proper IDEA evaluation procedures since September 2018, in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.303 - .306.

**BACKGROUND:**

The student is ten (10) years old, and has not been identified as a student with a disability under the IDEA. He lives with his grandmother in Prince George's County and attends  School.

**FINDINGS OF FACTS:**

1. On August 6, 2019, the student's grandmother<sup>1</sup> made a written referral to the PGCPs for an IDEA evaluation. Her referral identified concerns related to the student's difficulties with inattentiveness and impulsivity.
2. On September 9, 2019, the complainant made another written referral to the PGCPs for an IDEA evaluation. Her referral identified concerns related to the student's difficulties with math, inattentiveness, and retaining information.
3. There is no documentation of any other written referrals for an IDEA evaluation during the time period covered by this investigation.
4. In response, the PGCPs is in the process of conducting an IDEA evaluation of the student.

**CONCLUSION:**

In this case, the complainant alleges that referrals for an IDEA evaluation of the student were made during the 2018 - 2019 school year but that an evaluation was not conducted.

Based on the Findings of Facts #1 - #3, the MSDE finds that there is no documentation of any referrals made prior to August 6, 2019. Further, based on the Finding of Fact #4, the MSDE finds that an IDEA evaluation is being conducted in response to the written referrals made, in accordance with 34 CFR §§300.303 - .306. Therefore, this office does not find that a violation occurred with respect to the 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.

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,

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<sup>1</sup> The grandmother serves as a parent under the IDEA (34 CFR §300.30).

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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:ac

c: Monica Goldson  
Gwen Mason  
Trinell Bowman  
Barbara VanDyke  
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