

December 5, 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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

RE: [REDACTED]  
Reference: #25-106

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 correspondence is the report on the final results of the investigation.

**ALLEGATION:**

On, October 18, 2024, MSDE received a complaint from [REDACTED], 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) concerning the above-referenced student.

MSDE investigated the following allegation:

1. The PGCPS has not ensured that the student was provided with speech/language services as required by his Individualized Education Program (IEP) from September 3, 2024, through September 6, 2024, in accordance with 34 CFR § 300.101 and COMAR 13A.05.01.09.

**BACKGROUND:**

The student is 19 years old, is identified as a student with Autism under the IDEA and has an IEP that requires the provision of special education and related services. The student currently attends the [REDACTED] in Prince George's County.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

1. The student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) in effect on September 3, 2024, requires that he receive two (2) sessions of speech language services weekly for thirty (30) minutes each session.
2. The PGCPS acknowledges that due to a change in service providers there was a short lapse in the implementation of speech-language services during the time in question.
3. There is documentation that the two sessions missed during the week of September 3 through September 6, 2024, were made up on October 8, 2024, and October 11, 2024.

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS:**

In this case, PGCPs determined that a change of service providers was appropriate. Because of that change, there was an interruption in the provision of speech-language services to the student from September 3, through September 6, 2024. However, the services were made up minute for minute on October 8, and October 11, 2024.

Based on Findings of Fact #1 and #2, MSDE finds that the PGCPs has not ensured that the student was provided with speech and language services as required by his IEP from September 3, 2024, through September 6, 2024, in accordance with 34 CFR § 300.101 and COMAR 13A.05.01.09. Therefore, this office finds a violation concerning this allegation.

Notwithstanding, the student has received make-up sessions for the missed services. Therefore, no student specific correction is required.

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 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 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/abb

c: Millard House, II, Superintendent, PGCPs  
Keith Marston, Supervisor Special Education Compliance, PGCPs  
Lois Smith Jones, Liaison, Special Education Compliance, PGCPs  
Darnell Henderson, General Counsel, PGCPs  
William Fields, Associate General Counsel, PGCPs  
Alison Barmat, Branch Chief, Family Support and Dispute Resolution, MSDE  
Tracy Givens, Section Chief, Dispute Resolution, MSDE  
Paige Bradford, Section Chief, Performance Support and Technical Assistance, MSDE  
Nicole Green, Compliance Specialist, MSDE