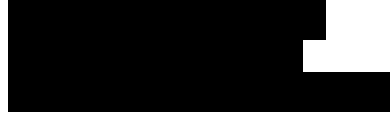



January 7, 2025

Revised




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

RE: 
Reference: #25-124

Dear Parties:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES), 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, November 8, 2024, MSDE received a complaint from , 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 allegations:

1. The PGCPS did not ensure that the behavior consult service was provided as required by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) during first quarter of 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with 34 CFR § 300.101 and COMAR 13A.05.01.09.
2. The PGCPS did not ensure that the student was provided with speech and language therapy as required by the student's IEP, from September 16, 2024 to September 20, 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 IEP in effect on September 16 through September 20, 2024, was drafted on April 30, 2024. The IEP requires that the student receive two thirty-minute speech/language sessions weekly and one behavior consultation to "facilitate ongoing communication regarding Insaaf's behavioral and wellness needs between the school team and home" quarterly.
2. There is documentation that the behavioral consult was provided during the first quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.
3. The PGCPs acknowledges that there were speech and language sessions missed for a brief period of time. There is documentation of makeup sessions for the sessions missed on September 16, 2024 to September 20, 2024. The September 19, 2024 session was held on October 29, 2024 from 9:00 and to 9:30 am. The September 20, 2024 session was held on October 30, 2024 from 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS:

Based on Findings of Fact #1 and #2, MSDE finds that the PGCPs did ensure that behavior consult service was provided as required by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) during first quarter of 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with 34 CFR § 300.101 and COMAR 13A.05.01.09. Therefore, this office finds no violation concerning this allegation.

Based on Findings of Fact #1 and #3, MSDE finds that the PGCPs did not ensure that the student was provided with speech and language therapy as required by the student's IEP, from September 16, 2024, to September 20, 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 PGCPs has held make-up sessions for the missed speech/language services, therefore, no additional 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 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 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
Dr. Brian Morrison, Branch Chief, Accountability and Monitoring, MSDE
Nicole Green, Compliance Specialist, MSDE