



INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | CASE 24-0001-I

Findings Regarding the Prince George's County Public Schools Alleged Failure to Document and Follow Mandatory Requirements Related to Reporting Sexual Abuse.

The Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education (OIGE) received a complaint alleging negligence and misconduct at Highbridge Elementary School in Bowie, MD. It was reported that an elementary school special education student reported to his teacher that he had been forced to perform a sexual act on a fellow special education student in the bathroom during regular school hours. The complainant alleged that when the Acting Principal (PGE#1) became aware of the sexual misconduct incident, they took over the reporting responsibility, failed to take appropriate action, and failed to properly report the incident to the Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services (CPS), and others.

The investigation substantiated the complaint and found that PGE#1 failed to adhere to the mandatory reporting regulations set forth by the State and PGCPS procedures. CPS was neither immediately notified orally nor subsequently notified, as required, in writing within the mandated timeframe. Additionally, the OIGE found variations between Maryland's laws and regulations requirements and those policies of the PGCPS.

The OIGE has completed its investigation.

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Unless otherwise noted, the OIGE applies the preponderance of the evidence standard in determining whether local school agency personnel have committed misconduct.