



MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR EDUCATION

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | 21-0003-I

Findings Regarding the Baltimore County Public Schools – Board of Education Violating Maryland Code – Education Article, County Code, County Charter, and School Policy and Procedures Governing Procurement Law.

The Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education (OIGE) initiated an investigation after receiving an allegation that members of the Baltimore County Public Schools – Board of Education violated Maryland Code - Education Article, County Code, County Charter, and school policy and procedures governing procurement law to obtain independent legal services for the Board of Education.

The OIGE investigation revealed that the Board of Education failed to use the County Attorney for legal counsel as required by the Education Article, County Code, County Charter, and policy in their official capacity concerning the use and retention of the legal services. The investigation found that the Board of Education failed to follow its policies, State and County procurement rules by artificially dividing a small purchase order which created a noncompetitive, sole-source procurement environment in which only one source for legal services was selected. Additionally, the OIGE found that the Board of Education had received two report findings from the Maryland Office of Legislative Audits concerning general procurement policies related to competitive procurements and procurements were not always made in accordance with established policies and applicable State law. Furthermore, the Baltimore County Public Schools - Office of Internal Audit found that the Board of Education paid legal fees for services outside of the legal services agreement.

The OIGE has completed its investigation and provided its report to the Maryland State Board of Education and the Baltimore County Public Schools – Board of Education for appropriate action.

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