



MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR EDUCATION

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | 20-0003-I

Findings Regarding Grade Changing Allegations Involving the Baltimore City Public Schools System.

The OIGE initiated an investigation based on information provided, in part, by the former Office of Education Accountability, alleging that the Baltimore City Public School (BCPS) system had incorrectly documented and promoted students by changing failing grades to those of passing grades. The complaint further alleged that teachers had been pressured to change grades by either their Assistant Principals (APs), Principals, or both. Additionally, it was alleged that APs and principals received the same pressure from other education executives assigned to the Baltimore City Public Schools headquarters building, also known as "North Avenue."

Our investigation revealed differing interpretations, applications, and adherence to appropriate grade change procedures among teachers, school staff, APs, Principals, Instructional Leadership Executive Directors (ILED), and those asserted policies and curricula described by Drs. Santelises (CEO), Dabrowski (CAO), and Mr. Davis (COS). The physical documents examined, and interviews conducted by investigators revealed several disparities.

The OIGE investigation revealed misunderstandings, misapplications, and non-compliance of grade change procedures which increased the risk of inappropriate grade changes and could have a significant impact on BCPS graduation rates.

The OIGE did substantiate the allegations.

The OIGE has completed its investigation and provided its report to the BCPS-Board of School Commissioner and the Maryland State Board of Education for its information.

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