



MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR EDUCATION

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | CASE 22-0014-I

Findings Regarding The Anne Arundel County Public Schools System Mismanagement Of Concentration of Poverty Grant Funds Designated For Community Schools.

The OIGE received a complaint alleging that a former Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Community School Coordinator mismanaged program funds by compensating a family member. The family member allegedly worked at program functions, spent program funds on personal items, and failed to budget for essential purchases. The complaint further alleged the coordinator improperly used program funds to purchase large ticket items, such as furniture for an elementary school entranceway, instead of material for related program activities.

The OIGE investigation revealed that the coordinator's family member(s) volunteered their time and services at an elementary school. Additionally, the OIGE could not substantiate the coordinator's use of program funds for personal or improper purchases. However, the investigation revealed several purchases in 2022 were made without supporting documentation. The coordinator did admit to not maintaining an organized method to track receipts during SY 2021-22 but believed they retained most of the receipts in their school office. Our review of the program did indicate a lack of required record-keeping and proper training of coordinator personnel.

The investigation further found that the guidance the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) provided to LEAs regarding managing and overseeing the Concentration of Poverty funding was vague. While Maryland Code, Education Article §9.9-101(e) defines what should or could be considered a wraparound service(s), its overall interpretation is left to the individual school systems and program coordinator.

The OIGE has completed its investigation.

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