



MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR EDUCATION

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | CASE 23-0005-I

Findings Regarding The Calvert County Public School System's Misuse Of Education Funds To Attend The 2023 Super Bowl.

The OIGE initiated an investigation after receiving a complaint alleging that the Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) wasted "hundreds of thousands" of dollars by the Superintendent and several administrators in their effort to send 20 students to the 2023 Super Bowl without a vote by the CCPS - Board of Education (BOE). The complainant further alleged the selection process of the students and administrators appeared inequitable.

The investigation revealed that CCPS entered into a \$344,000 sole source contract with Vendor 1 for their noted program designed to provide "access to literacy-rich and motivating educational experiences" for at-risk students to "increase self-efficacy, reading motivation, and academic success." The contract was not procured in accordance with CCPS Administrative Procedures for Policy #5510 (Business) Regarding Procedures for Bidding, Sec VI, and the Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR) Sec 21.05.05.01-02.

The OIGE investigation found that CCPS did not procure vendor services in accordance with CCPS Administrative Procedures for Policy #5510 (Business) Regarding Procedures for Bidding, Sec VI and COMAR 21.05.05.01-02. The sole source justification documented their decision to use a specific vendor rather than justifying the need for a sole source contract. The OIGE determined that CCPS used this process, which was inherited¹ and dated back to early 2020.

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.

¹ Office of Legislative Audits, Financial Management Practices Audit Report, January 2022