



MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR EDUCATION

Richard P. Henry  
*Inspector General*

Yvonne K. Brooks, Esq.  
*Deputy Inspector General*

October 24, 2023

**VIA EMAIL (sbsantelises@bcps.k12.md.us)**

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises  
Chief Executive Officer  
Baltimore City Board of Education  
200 E. North Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Ref: OIGE Case 22-0002-I

Dear Dr. Santelises,

The Office of the Inspector General for Education (OIGE) investigated an allegation regarding overpayment to a retired Baltimore City Public School (BCPS) employee. At the time of the overpayments, the former employee had been retired for fourteen (14) years. In addition to the overpayments, there was a concern that a fraudulent deduction may have been made to a Municipal Employees' Credit Union (MECU) bank account.

At the time the complaint was received, BCPS had already begun the process of recovering the erroneously distributed funds. As part of the investigation, inquiries were made into how the error was made and discovered, and the relevant parties were interviewed.

The OIGE found no intent to defraud the retired employee concerning the alleged overpayments and the payroll deduction sent to MECU.

The deduction was contributed to an account that was not active and was, therefore, returned to BCPS. While most other overpayments occur because of incorrect time submission or leave coding, this overpayment resulted from an employee error. The information entered was technically correct; therefore, BCPS's electronic management system, Oracle, did not register an error. The lapse between the entry and the discovery of the mistake prevented the removal of the information until after payment was issued. The BCPS employee identified by the OIGE in this matter stated they did not have any recollection of reversing the status of the former employee's employment. As the retired employee should not have been initially paid, they were not defrauded of funds to which they were entitled.

At this time, the OIGE is declining any further investigation into this matter and is referring this issue back to the Baltimore City Public Schools for further review and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Henry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "H".

Richard P. Henry  
Inspector General

cc: Joshua Civin, Esq., Chief Counsel – Baltimore City Public Schools  
Yvonne Brooks, Esq., Deputy Inspector General – OIGE  
H. Brandis Marsh, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, Principal Counsel - OIGE