



MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR EDUCATION

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | 20-0002-I

Findings of Misconduct by a Baltimore County Public School (BCPS) Principal acted ethically and within the law to allow an adult student sex offender the opportunity to complete two needed classes to graduate.

The Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education (OIGE) initiated an investigation upon the receipt of information from the former Office of Education Accountability (OEA) alleging a cover-up by members of the Baltimore County Public School (BCPS) system, concerning a convicted adult student sex offender attending a High School in Baltimore County, Maryland. The complaint further alleged members of the BCPS falsified documents to cover-up the reason why the student sex offender was allowed back on school property.

The OIGE found that BCPS did not have written guidance or procedures addressing how a student could obtain required technical graduation credit(s) from an alternative learning environment (home) as the result of an adult criminal offense or conviction. At the time of this allegation, the student would have been required to complete a “technical education” credit in person on school grounds.

The OIGE found the student was nineteen years of age and had been alleged to have committed other sex offenses against a juvenile victim. Our investigation determined the student had completed the 2017-2018 school year but needed two (2) technical credits to meet the mandatory graduation requirement. Due to incomplete classwork, the student was automatically unenrolled by BCPS for the 2018-2019 school year. Based on BCPS procedures, the student would have been required to re-enroll for the 2018-2019 school year.

The OIGE investigation found that the principal contacted and received approval from the BCPS - Law Office, regarding the student’s eligibility to return to in person learning for the 2018-2019 school year. The OIGE further found that the principal issued a “Limited Authorization” letter within the guidelines set forth by the BCPS policy and Maryland law.

The OIGE did verify that a second “Limited Authorization” letter allowing the student to return to the school for in-person learning for the 2019-2020 school year was never requested, approved, or issued.

The OIGE did not substantiate that the principal in this investigation acted in an unethical or illegal manner.

The OIGE has completed its investigation and provided its report to the BCPS for its information or appropriate action.

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