



MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR EDUCATION

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | CASE 23-0011-I

Findings Regarding the Prince George's County Public Schools Alleged Unfair Grade Changing Practices and Grades Based on Attendance and Class Performance.

The Office of the Inspector General for Education (OIGE) investigated allegations of irregular grade-changing practices at Suitland High School within Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). The investigation found that five sections of an English 11 course lacked a dedicated teacher or substitute. Reportedly, only four grades were entered into the district's grading system during the fourth quarter. Following parents' complaints, administrators identified the issue at the end of the school year.

A PGCPS document dated June 29, 2022, called for the affected students' quarter four grades to be 50, 70, or 90. This was determined by attendance, prior performance in English 11 during quarters one through three, and overall academic performance during the fourth quarter. As a result, students received grades for English 11, in which instruction was not provided.

Based on interviews, document review, and policy analysis, OIGE found that staff at Suitland High School failed to comply with several administrative requirements. Specifically, staff failed to:

- Ensure the proper entry of required grades, which is inconsistent with Administrative Procedure 5121.3; and
- Follow established grade-change procedures, which are inconsistent with Administrative Procedure 5116.

Insufficient supervision and long-term staff absences led to procedural inconsistencies and disruptions in education. The ongoing shortage of qualified teachers and the difficulty in filling vacancies do not justify ignoring grading and instructional policies.

This investigation highlights the need for PGCPS to strengthen safeguards, such as conducting random audits of grading practices and improving oversight of teacher assignments and attendance.

OIGE has completed its investigation.

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