



MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR EDUCATION

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | CASE 26-0003-I

Findings Regarding the Superintendent of Harford County Public Schools' Alleged Loss of Issued Information Technology Equipment and Breach of Student Data.

The Office of the Inspector General for Education (OIGE) initiated an investigation after receiving information from the Board of Education (BOE) President that the Superintendent's laptop and cellular phone, both issued by Information Technology (IT), had been lost or stolen while the Superintendent was attending an out-of-state education conference on official business.

OIGE found that hotel security staff recovered the equipment from the Superintendent's hotel room and returned it to the Superintendent. OIGE further found that the equipment was examined for tampering and any breach of student information. The Harford County Public Schools IT Director determined that no breach or tampering occurred.

OIGE also found that the former BOE President was aware of the reporting of the lost equipment, its recovery, the IT Director's examination, and the return of the laptop and replacement of the cellular phone for use by the Superintendent 20 months before the BOE's request for an independent investigation by this office.

OIGE has completed its investigation and submitted its report to the Harford County Public Schools Board of Education President and Interim Superintendent for appropriate action.

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