



MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR EDUCATION

Richard P. Henry
Inspector General

Georgia C. Conroy
Deputy Inspector General

October 10, 2025

VIA EMAIL (superintendent@pgcps.org)

Dr. Shawn Joseph, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Prince George's County Public Schools
14201 School Lane
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Ref: OIGE Case 24-0010-I

Management Alert Report

Prince George's County Public Schools Concentration of Poverty Mismanagement

Dear Superintendent Joseph,

The Office of the Inspector General for Education (OIGE) received a complaint alleging mismanagement and misspending related to the Concentration of Poverty Grants (COP) through the Office of Community Schools (OCS), specifically at Gladys Noon Spellman Elementary (GNS) in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). More specifically, the complainant alleged that the school systems and structures at GNS were not supporting students or their families, especially that student programs were being canceled and that funds were being used for staff meals.

The OIGE did not find any intentional financial misconduct; however, after reviewing policies, procedures, and financial records in PGCPS and conducting interviews with current and former employees, the following was discovered:

Community Schools staff state that it is best practice for all COP events to have an approved agenda, sign-in sheets, and flyers uploaded into a shared document. A review of the GNS documents revealed missing COP sign-in sheets and inaccurate or incomplete school visitor logs on event dates.

100 COMMUNITY PLACE, CROWNSVILLE, MARYLAND 21032

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OIGE also found that although PGCPs Community Schools conducts quarterly financial reviews, the approval steps within Oracle (PGCPs online procurement software) were unclear to those interviewed by OIGE. The process should follow a transparent system, and employees should understand their approval authority. Additional training and clear delineation of responsibilities are recommended. OCS reports monitor all school spending; however, the data is said to “lag” up to one month.

Regarding ordering food for community school events and attendance, PGCPs policy states, “The average order should be per the attendance of parents/families based on registrations and reasonable for the number of anticipated participants.” According to an interviewee, the school regularly ordered food for 25 people, but it was reported to have as few as two attendees at times. For extra food, families would be allowed to take what was left over, which would then be offered to staff. OIGE did not find any instances of food being ordered solely for staff.

The OIGE is referring this matter to PGCPs for further review and consideration.

Respectfully,



Richard P. Henry
Inspector General

Cc: Darnell L. Henderson, Esq., Principal Counsel, PGCPs
Frank S. Turner, II, Integrity and Compliance Officer, PGCPs

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