



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

VIA EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

April 20, 2020



RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #3022 filed on March 25, 2019

Dear [REDACTED]:

In accordance with Chapter 24 Subtitle 5-B, Section 2405 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, DC Public Schools (DCPS) Comprehensive Alternative Resolution and Equity team has completed its investigation of the above referenced written grievance.

Grievance Issues

Based on a review of the information provided, the written grievance raised the following issues under the jurisdiction of this office:

1. **24 DCMR Subtitle 5-B, Section 2405.2 (c):** Where it is alleged that any student or group of students is being subjected to an arbitrary or unreasonable regulation, procedure, or standard of conduct. You raise concerns that your student [REDACTED] was being marked absent for the day when arriving late to school. You stated you do not understand the policy that is causing Student [REDACTED] to be marked absent.

Review Procedure

The review included interviews with the following individuals:

1. [REDACTED], Grievant, Parent of Student [REDACTED]

The review also included review of the following documents which were either submitted by the complainant, submitted by the school, or accessible via DCPS data systems:

1. DCPS Attendance and Truancy Policy
2. [REDACTED] website with class schedule

General Findings of Fact

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1. You reported to DCPS CARE on [REDACTED] you were informed by staff at [REDACTED] that if students arrive to school after 10:00 am and are not present when the classroom teacher takes attendance, they are marked absent for the day.
 2. The DCPS Attendance and Truancy Policy states, "Students who are absent for more than twenty (20) percent of the scheduled class periods are marked absent for the day."
 3. During the [REDACTED] school year, students at [REDACTED] were scheduled for four class periods per day with classes beginning at 8:40am.
 4. According to Aspen attendance records, Student [REDACTED] was absent on [REDACTED] during his third period Geometry class and fourth period Army JROTC class.
 5. According to Aspen attendance records, Student [REDACTED] was absent on [REDACTED] during his fourth period Army JROTC class.
 6. According to Aspen attendance records, Student [REDACTED] was absent on [REDACTED] during his first period Extended Literacy class.
 7. According to Aspen attendance records, Student [REDACTED] was absent on [REDACTED] during his third period Geometry class.
 8. According to Aspen attendance records, Student [REDACTED] was absent on [REDACTED] during his third period Geometry class.
 9. According to Aspen attendance records, Student [REDACTED] was absent on [REDACTED] during his first period Extended Literacy class and second period World History & Geography class.
 10. According to Aspen attendance records, Student [REDACTED] was absent on [REDACTED] during his third period Geometry class.

Discussion/Conclusion

As a result of this review, DCPS has found the following:

DCPS finds that **24 DCMR Subtitle 5-B, Section 2405.2 (c)** is not substantiated. The DCPS Attendance and Truancy Policy states, "Students who are absent for more than twenty (20) percent of the scheduled class periods are marked absent for the day." According to the bell schedule at [REDACTED], students attend four class periods per day. Should Student [REDACTED] miss one class period, Student [REDACTED] would miss more than twenty percent of the scheduled class and therefore be considered absent for the day. As such, DCPS CARE is unable to conclude Student [REDACTED] is being subjected to an arbitrary or unreasonable regulation, procedure, or standard of conduct.

In response to your concerns, DCPS will take the following action:

1. Within 10 days of the students' return to school, the [REDACTED] Attendance counselor will meet with Student [REDACTED] to reinforce the importance of attending school and class regularly.

As the complainant, if you are not satisfied with the outcome, you have the right to file an appeal. Appeals must be submitted in writing and received within 10 calendar days of receipt of this notice. Please submit appeal requests to the Office of Integrity via U.S. Postal Mail to 1200 First St., NE, 11th Floor; Attn: CIO or via email at dcps.cio@k12.dc.gov. You may also contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (1-800-421-3481) to report any educational discrimination.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at dcps.care@k12.dc.gov or 202.442.5405.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anitra Allen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anitra Allen, Director CARE

Cc: Principal
Instructional Superintendent