



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

BY EMAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

September 13, 2019



RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #3311 filed on July 30, 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 (CARE) team has completed its investigation of the above referenced 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 (f)** - Any other violation of a right granted by law that does not have a specific grievance procedure or hearing process provided in this title.
 - a. On [REDACTED], you reported that staff at [REDACTED] inaccurately marked [REDACTED] absent during times that she was in pre-approved counseling sessions with an outside provider.

Investigative Procedure

The investigation included interviews with the following individuals:

1. Parent, [REDACTED]
2. Attorney, [REDACTED]
3. Attendance Specialist, [REDACTED]

The investigation 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. [REDACTED] Title IX Letter of Resolution
2. Counseling Authorization Form
3. Medical Note
4. Medical Note (Confirmation of Monday appointments)
5. Related Emails

General Findings of Fact

The following findings of fact resulted from the investigation:

1. In [REDACTED] DCPS CARE authorized counseling services for [REDACTED] as a result of a Title IX investigation.
2. [REDACTED] underwent a psychological assessment on the following dates: [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. As a result, [REDACTED] was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
3. [REDACTED] was marked absent for [REDACTED].
4. [REDACTED] was approved for standing appointments at the [REDACTED] on Monday's starting in [REDACTED].
5. [REDACTED] was marked absent for the following [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Discussion/Conclusion

24 DCMR Subtitle 5-B, Section 2405.2 (f) is substantiated. DC Public Schools approved for [REDACTED] to receive counseling services in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] continued to receive services, in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] began meeting with health professionals at [REDACTED] for standing appointments on Monday. Therefore, [REDACTED] should not have been marked as having unexcused absences for the dates that she was receiving health services that qualify as an excused absence.

DCPS has taken the following actions below to address this incident:

1. The unexcused absences for the following dates will be amended by September 13, 2019:
 - a. [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

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@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@dc.gov or 202.442.5405.

Sincerely,



Anitra Allen-King, Director CARE

Cc: Principal
Instructional Superintendent