



VIA EMAIL

June 23, 2020

[REDACTED]

RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #3314 filed on August 5, 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

We acknowledge that there has been a lapse in time since the filing of this grievance. Based on a review of the information provided, the written grievance raised the following issues under the jurisdiction of this office:

1. **5-B DCMR 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 reported concerns involving your student [REDACTED] being marked absent when he was present at [REDACTED] and during summer school at [REDACTED]. Additionally, you reported concerns that these absences are the reason Student [REDACTED] was not promoted to the next grade.

Review Procedure

The review included interviews with the following individuals:

1. Parent, [REDACTED]
2. DCPS Student Attendance Specialist, [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED] Assistant Principal, [REDACTED]

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

1. Aspen—DCPS data maintenance system for attendance
2. DCPS Student Promotion Policy
3. DCPS Academic Calendar [REDACTED]
4. Student [REDACTED] report card

---

## General Findings of Fact

The following findings of fact resulted from the review:

1. You reported that Student [REDACTED] report card from SY [REDACTED] indicated he missed 58 days of school, but you stated this was not true.
2. According to Aspen, Student [REDACTED] had 51 absences during SY [REDACTED].
3. On [REDACTED] DCPS Attendance Specialist [REDACTED] verified the absences in Aspen by speaking with Student [REDACTED] advisory teacher from SY [REDACTED] and reviewing records.
4. On [REDACTED] you reported to DCPS CARE that you were informed that Student [REDACTED] had 13 absences during summer school and would not be promoted to the next grade. You reported he was only absent two to three days.
5. According to Aspen, Student [REDACTED] has two full day absences from [REDACTED] summer school [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]; however, Student [REDACTED] also has class absences listed on the following days:  
[REDACTED]
6. According to Aspen, Student [REDACTED] was retained on [REDACTED].
7. According to the DCPS Student Promotion Policy, a student who attends summer school due to retention shall be reevaluated for promotion if the students does not have more than three unexcused absences from summer school and that the student receives a passing grade in each subject or content area for which the student did not achieve a passing grade during the school year.
8. Student [REDACTED] failed all of his classes, except for physical education during SY [REDACTED].
9. On [REDACTED] Assistant Principal, [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE that they stand by the decision to retain Student [REDACTED] due to behavior and attendance concerns.
10. On [REDACTED] DCPS Attendance Specialist [REDACTED] verified the absences in Aspen by speaking with summer school staff from [REDACTED] and reviewing records.
11. Additionally, Attendance Specialist [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE that on a lot of the days Student [REDACTED] was marked absent, Student [REDACTED] was in the school building, but he didn't make it to classes. [REDACTED] reported that this applied to both [REDACTED].

## Discussion/Conclusion

As a result of this review, we have determined the following:

DCPS CARE finds that 5-B DCMR 2405.2(c) is not substantiated. The attendance that is listed in Aspen for Student [REDACTED] was verified by the Attendance Specialist assigned to [REDACTED]. According to the DCPS Promotion Policy, students may be retained if they do not meet the promotion requirements in the DCMR. Due to the excessive number of absences documented for SY [REDACTED] including summer school and Student [REDACTED] failing grades, DCPS CARE finds that Student [REDACTED] retention was not due to an arbitrary or unreasonable regulation, procedure, or standard of conduct.

To better support Student [REDACTED] DCPS will take the following action:

1. Within 10 school days of students returning to school, [REDACTED] will create an attendance plan for Student [REDACTED] and identify a member of the school staff who can serve as a mentor to this student.

---

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, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor; Attn: CIO or via email at [dcps.cio@k12.dc.gov](mailto: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.

Sincerely,



Anitra Allen, Director CARE

Cc: Principal  
Instructional Superintendent