



VIA EMAIL

June 23, 2020

[REDACTED]

RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #3358 filed on September 18, 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 that your student, Student [REDACTED] was arbitrarily placed in a regular English class rather than the Advanced Placement (AP) English class at [REDACTED] for school year [REDACTED]

Review Procedure

The review included interviews with the following individuals:

1. [REDACTED], Student [REDACTED] parent, Grievant
2. [REDACTED] Principal
3. [REDACTED] 10th & 11th Grade Counselor
4. [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' student information/attendance database

General Findings of Fact

The following findings of fact resulted from the review:

1. You reported that Student [REDACTED] grades were sufficient to be placed in Advanced Placement English. You reported that [REDACTED] staff told you that the class was full.
2. You reported that you spoke with several school staff (10th, 11th, and 12th grade counselors, 11th grade dean, 11th grade assistant principal, and teachers) regarding [REDACTED] English class and was

told that students are placed in honors/AP courses based on PARCC scores, grades, teacher recommendations, and parent advocacy.

3. On [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE that student selection for the honors/AP class is based on teacher recommendations and grades.
4. [REDACTED] reported that they do not have documentation from last school year that demonstrates why Student [REDACTED] was not selected for Advanced Placement English.
5. On [REDACTED] DCPS CARE reviewed a random sampling of student grades who are currently in Advanced Placement English. DCPS CARE determined that Student [REDACTED] grades were similar to other students in Advanced Placement English.

Discussion/Conclusion

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

- a. DCPS CARE finds that **5-B DCMR 2405.2 (c)** is substantiated. [REDACTED] explained that Advanced Placement student selection is based on several factors including grades and teacher recommendations. However, [REDACTED] was unable to provide a clear explanation for why Student [REDACTED] was not placed in Advanced Placement English. As a result, your student was subjected to an arbitrary or unreasonably regulation, procedure, or standard of conduct.

In order to respond to these allegations, DCPS has taken or will take the following action:

1. By the start of [REDACTED], [REDACTED] will review its procedures for Advanced Placement class selection and ensure that decisions regarding student selection for Advanced Placement courses are documented.

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, 10th 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.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: Principal
Instructional Superintendent