



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

VIA E-MAIL

October 19, 2020

██████████
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RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #3481 filed on November 6, 2019

Dear ██████████

In accordance with Chapter 25 Subtitle 5-B, Section 2405 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) Comprehensive Alternative Resolution and Equity (CARE) team has completed its review of the above referenced written grievance.

Grievance Issues

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

1. **5-B DCMR 2405.2 (e)**: Where a student is a victim of bullying or harassment, including sexual harassment. It was reported that Student A had been experiencing bullying while at ██████████
██

Review Procedure

The review included information from the following individuals:

1. Grievant/Parent of Student A
2. Student A
3. ██████████ Guidance Counselor
4. Parent of Student ██████████

During the review, DCPS CARE was unable to obtain consent and/or reach Student ██████████ for an interview.

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 database
2. SBT – DCPS student behavior database
3. DCPS Bullying Prevention Policy

General Finding of Fact

The following findings of fact resulted from the review:

1. It was alleged that Student [REDACTED] pulled Student A's hair while they were in the classroom on [REDACTED]. It was also alleged that Student [REDACTED] has hit Student A, pushed Student A down, spat on Student A and been intimidating Student A.
2. Student A reported to DCPS CARE that Student [REDACTED] slapped her and pulled her hair.
3. There are no peer-to-peer infractions related to Student [REDACTED] found in SBT for Student B.
4. Guidance Counselor [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE that Student A and Student [REDACTED] engaged in conflict and that Student A was usually the aggressor.
5. Guidance Counselor [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE that the conflict was resolved during mediation and that there were no reported issues regarding Student A and Student [REDACTED] for the remainder of the [REDACTED] school year.
6. The parent of Student [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE that the issues between the students were resolved in mediation.
7. Student A was withdrawn from [REDACTED] on [REDACTED].

Discussion/Conclusion

1. As it relates to the concern that Student A was bullied, DCPS CARE finds that **5-B DCMR 2405.2(e)** is unable to be substantiated. During the review, it was reported that Student A was being bullied by Student [REDACTED]. DCPS CARE was unable to interview Student [REDACTED] but Student [REDACTED] parent reported that the issues between the students were resolved with mediation. Guidance Counselor [REDACTED] affirmed that Student A and Student [REDACTED] engaged in conflict but reported that Student A was usually the aggressor. There is insufficient evidence to conclude that conflict between Student A and Student [REDACTED] constitute as bullying as defined by the DCPS Bullying Prevention Policy.

To address your concerns, [REDACTED] has taken the following actions as a result of these allegations:

1. In [REDACTED] Student A and Student [REDACTED] participated in a mediation.

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,

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