



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

VIA EMAIL

November 17, 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #3588 filed on January 3, 2020

Dear [REDACTED]:

In accordance with Chapter 24 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 issues 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. You reported that Student [REDACTED] had been bullied by Student A during the [REDACTED] school year while at [REDACTED] School.

Review Procedure

The review included interviews with the following individuals:

1. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] School Dean

DCPS CARE attempted to contact you for an interview regarding the allegations raised in this grievance but was unsuccessful. DCPS CARE attempted to interview Student A but was unsuccessful.

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

1. Student Behavior Tracker-DCPS database for student discipline
2. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] School safety plan

General Findings of Fact

1. On [REDACTED], you reported that Student [REDACTED] was being bullied by Student A. Specifically, you reported Student A took Student [REDACTED]'s shoes and played football with them, kicked Student [REDACTED], making him fall, and smacks things out of Student [REDACTED]'s hands.
2. On [REDACTED], Dean [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE that [REDACTED] School staff witnessed Student A make repeated, targeted attempts to harm Student [REDACTED].
3. Dean [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED] School staff witnessed Student A push and hit Student [REDACTED] on multiple occasions and witnessed an incident in which Student A pushed Student [REDACTED], kicked Student [REDACTED] down, took Student [REDACTED]'s shoe, and threw it to another student.
4. Neither Student [REDACTED] nor Student A currently attend DCPS schools.

Discussion/Conclusion

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

1. **5-B DCMR 2405.2(e)** is substantiated. Based on the information gathered during this investigation, DCPS CARE has found that it is more likely than not that the combination of Student A's conduct toward Student [REDACTED] was sufficiently persistent and severe to disrupt and interfere with Student [REDACTED]'s ability to learn in a safe educational environment. Specifically, Student A taking Student [REDACTED]'s shoes, kicking, pushing, hitting and making repeated, targeted attempts to harm Student [REDACTED] is sufficiently severe and persistent to constitute bullying as defined in the DCPS Bullying Prevention Policy.

In order to ensure your concerns are addressed, DCPS has taken the following action:

1. A safety plan was created for Student [REDACTED] on [REDACTED].
2. Student A received Chapter 25 disciplinary infractions as a result of this behavior.
3. DCPS CARE was unable to reach you, however, should you have any safety concerns regarding Student [REDACTED] attending a DCPS school, please contact DCPS CARE at the number below.

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.

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

Sincerely,

██████████, Director CARE

Cc: Principal
Instructional Superintendent