



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

VIA EMAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

April 1, 2020



RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #3592 filed on January 8, 2020

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. **5-B DCMR 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. You reported that on [REDACTED], your student, [REDACTED], was elbowed in the head and received stitches during a basketball game at [REDACTED]. You reported that you requested information regarding the injury from your student's school, [REDACTED], but that they were unaware of the incident and did not provide documentation or follow-up.
  - b. You reported that your student, [REDACTED], sprained his ankle in the gym during lunch following the end of the interscholastic basketball season. You further allege that the [REDACTED] nurse recommended student [REDACTED] not return to school. You reported that you did not receive documentation or follow-up after he was told not to return to school.

**Review Procedure**

The review included interviews with the following individuals:

1. [REDACTED], Student [REDACTED]'s grandparent
2. [REDACTED], Principal at [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED], Athletic Trainer at [REDACTED]

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4. [REDACTED], Principal at [REDACTED]
  5. [REDACTED], Athletic Trainer at [REDACTED]
  6. [REDACTED], DCPS Home and Hospital Instruction Program Analyst
  7. [REDACTED], Children's School Services Nurse Manager

The review also included a review of 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 investigation:

1. On [REDACTED] Student [REDACTED] was injured while playing a basketball game at [REDACTED].
2. On [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Athletic Trainer [REDACTED] treated student [REDACTED]'s laceration above the eye by cleaning the wound and providing Steri-Strips. [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE that she found you in the stands, told you what action was taken and that student [REDACTED] did not require stitches because the wound affected the superficial layer of the skin. [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE that she provided you with extra bandages and gave you instructions to treat the wound and to follow up with [REDACTED] Athletic Trainer on [REDACTED].
3. [REDACTED] Athletic Trainer [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE that on [REDACTED] she followed up with student [REDACTED] to check his wound and found that the laceration had healed completely. Athletic Trainer [REDACTED] reported that she followed up with a phone call to you the same day. During this call, Athletic Trainer [REDACTED] asked you if you wanted an injury report and you said [REDACTED].
4. Student [REDACTED] continued to play basketball and completed the remainder of the season, which ended on [REDACTED].
5. On [REDACTED] student [REDACTED] injured his ankle while playing basketball in the [REDACTED] gym during lunch.
6. You reported to DCPS CARE that you took student [REDACTED] to the doctor on [REDACTED] and was informed that student [REDACTED] sprained his ankle and would need a soft cast, followed by a boot.
7. You reported to DCPS CARE that you brought student [REDACTED] back to school on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] after his injury occurred and gave the school nurse the documentation provided by the doctor. You reported to DCPS CARE that you were told by the school nurse that [REDACTED] should stay at home and assisted with gathering [REDACTED]'s make-up work.
8. DCPS CARE spoke with [REDACTED] Athletic Trainer [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] and confirmed that student [REDACTED] can return to school when school re-opens.
9. Children's School Services Nurse Manager [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE on [REDACTED] that they conducted their own investigation into the alleged comments the [REDACTED] school nurse made to student [REDACTED].
10. Nurse Manager [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE that during their investigation, the [REDACTED] school nurse told [REDACTED] that it was your decision to have student [REDACTED] collect his work and go home for the remainder of the day.
11. The [REDACTED] school nurse reported to Nurse Manager [REDACTED], who reported to DCPS CARE, that she denied recommending the student stay home from school.

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## Discussion/Conclusion

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

- a. As it relates to the [REDACTED] incident, DCPS CARE is unable to substantiate **5-B DCMR 2405.2 (f)**. Following student [REDACTED]'s first injury on [REDACTED], the [REDACTED] Athletic Trainer followed up with you regarding your student's injury. Your student's injury healed, and he continued to play the remainder of the basketball season.
- b. As it relates to the [REDACTED] incident, DCPS CARE finds that we are unable to substantiate **5-B DCMR 2405.2 (f)**. You reported that on [REDACTED], the school nurse recommended that student [REDACTED] stay home following his injury on [REDACTED]. The school nurse reported to her supervisor that she assisted you and student [REDACTED] with obtaining his schoolwork on [REDACTED]. The school nurse denied recommending student [REDACTED] stay home from school. As such, DCPS CARE is unable to substantiate **5-B DCMR 2405.2 (f)** as DCPS CARE received different accounts of what transpired at [REDACTED] on [REDACTED].

To address your concerns and ensure that your student is supported, [REDACTED] is required to take the following action by the dates outlined below:

1. Student [REDACTED]'s unexcused absences for the following dates will be amended to excused absences by [REDACTED]:
  - a. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [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, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor; Attn: CIO or via email at [dcps.cio@dc.gov](mailto: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.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], Director CARE

Cc: Principal  
Instructional Superintendent