

VIA EMAIL

April 7, 2021

RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #3856 filed on February 17, 2021

Dear :

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(a)**: Where it is alleged that any student or group of students is being denied access to an adequate educational opportunity. You raise concerns that Student is not able to attend in-person learning more than once per week in order to receive academic support.

Review Procedures

The review included interviews with the following individuals:



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

- 1. DCPS Covid Cohort Guidance
- 2. Term School Reopening Plan
- 3. Reopen Strong Term Planning
- 4. email from Director of Student and Parent Engagement to
- Parent confirming in-person learning for Student

5. **Example 1** email from **Example 2** Director of Student Affairs **Example 2** to parents of ninth and tenth grade students regarding additional day for Student Support Center cohort

General Findings of Fact

1. Student is a tenth-grade student attending

2. You reported to DCPS CARE that Student was offered the option to attend an inperson social emotional learning class one day per week, however, you believe Student should be able to attend in-person more days per week.

3. According to the **example of the end** email from Director of Student and Parent Engagement **end**, Student **end** was permitted to attend in-person learning one day per week.

4. According to the **Second** Term **School** Reopening Plan, in person programming is offered four days per week with the goal of prioritizing students' arts education, as an arts endorsement is required for graduation. Various Arts Departments attend in person once per week for four and a half hours.

5. According to DCPS Reopen Strong Term Planning, select schools offer Student Support Center programming which may provide tutoring and social emotional support. Furthermore, schools may offer this option from one half of a day to four and a half days per week.

6. Director reported to DCPS CARE that for offers a Student Support Center (SSC) cohort on Tuesdays for ninth and tenth grade students and Thursdays for eleventh and twelfth grade students. It is reported that Student attends the SSC cohort on Tuesday, according to Student is grade band. According to Director is, students are allowed to participate in one of three cohorts offered by in order to stay within guidelines pertaining to covid-19.

7. DCPS Covid Cohort Guidance states, "a student should only be a part of one cohort".

8. According to Director , Student receives academic and social emotional support through the SSC cohort.

9. On **example**, Director **example** emailed you and other parents of ninth and tenth grade students enrolled in the SSC cohort to offer the option of attending an additional inperson learning day beginning **example**.

Discussion/Conclusion

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

1. **5-B DCMR 2405.2(a)** is unable to be substantiated. According to the **Example 1** School Reopening Plan, arts education is prioritized for in person learning to satisfy

students' graduation requirements. However, and offers an additional in-person cohort, the SSC, to provide students social emotional support. According to DCPS Reopen Strong Term Planning, schools may offer this option between one half to four and a half days per week. Student has attended in-person learning one day per week in the cohort offering social emotional support for students. This schedule conforms to the DCPS Covid Cohort Guidance. It is not found that Student is being denied access to an adequate educational opportunity.

While no violation was found, in order to ensure your concerns are addressed, DCPS has taken the following actions:

1. offered an additional day of in-person learning for Student and students in their cohort starting **additional**. Director **add** sent you a follow up email on **additional** to confirm whether Student **additional** will participate in the additional day of in-person learning for their cohort.

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 Chief Integrity Officer (CIO) via U.S. Postal Mail to 1200 First St., NE, 10th Floor; Attn: CIO or via email at <u>dcps.cio@k12.dc.gov</u>. 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 <u>dcps.care@k12.dc.gov</u> or 202.442.5405.

Sincerely,

, Director CARE

CC: Principal Instructional Superintendent