



BY EMAIL

March 17, 2022

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #4275 filed on January 11, 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

In accordance with Title 5 Education, Subtitle 5-B, Chapter 24, Subsection 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 2405.1 (d) & 2405.1 (e)** Where it is alleged that there has been a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin; and the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977 which, in part, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race and color.
 - a. On [REDACTED], you reported that in [REDACTED], Student [REDACTED] was the recipient of [REDACTED] comment from Student B.

Investigative Procedure

The investigation included interviews with the following individuals:

1. Parent, [REDACTED]
2. Student B

DCPS CARE unsuccessfully attempted to interview Student [REDACTED] regarding the allegations raised in this grievance.

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

1. Email from Parent, [REDACTED]

Pertinent Regulatory, Policy, and Procedural Considerations

As it relates to a student being subjected to discriminatory comments from another student.

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1. According to The District of Columbia Human Rights Law of 1977, Title 2, Chapter 14 of the D.C. Official Code (DC Human Rights Act), § 2-1402.41. It is an unlawful discriminatory practice... for an educational institution...to deny, restrict, or to abridge or condition the use of, or access to, any of its facilities, services, programs, or benefits of any program or activity to any person otherwise qualified, wholly or partially, for a discriminatory reason, based upon...race.”
 2. According to the DCPS Notice of Non-Discrimination, DCPS does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against...students on the basis of...race.

General Findings of Fact

The following findings of fact resulted from the investigation:

1. In an email on [REDACTED], you reported to [REDACTED] administration that in [REDACTED], Student B did a [REDACTED] towards Student [REDACTED] and commented, [REDACTED]
2. According to the ASPEN Student Database, Student [REDACTED] is racially identified as [REDACTED]. Student B is identified as [REDACTED].
3. During a phone call with DCPS CARE, you declined to allow for Student [REDACTED] to participate in an interview. DCPS CARE was unable to collect any additional information.
4. In an interview with Student B, Student B denied making the alleged comment to Student [REDACTED]. Additionally, Student B denied knowing what a [REDACTED] is and denied making the gesture to Student [REDACTED].

Discussion/Conclusion

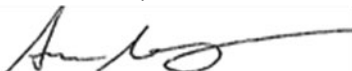
5-B DCMR 2405.1 (d) & 2405.1 (e) is unable to be substantiated. DCPS CARE was unable to speak with Student [REDACTED] about the allegations raised in this grievance. In an interview with Student B, they denied the allegations of being discriminatory towards Student [REDACTED]. DCPS CARE was unable to gather any additional independent information about this incident. As a result, DCPS CARE is unable to substantiate this claim.

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 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,

Anitra Allen, Director CARE



Cc: Principal
Instructional Superintendent