
February 03, 2021

Ms. Marcella E. Franczkowski, M.S.
Assistant State Superintendent
Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Re: Communication Skills in Maryland

Dear Ms. Franczkowski:

I continue to receive correspondences from Maryland officials regarding communication skills in Maryland. As I explained you recently when I mentioned about communication skills, a Maryland official started laughing. I felt that communication skills is a joke in Maryland. Subsequent to that, indirect inquiries I received indicates that there is a question in Maryland whether I believe Ms. Trinell Bowman, Associate Superintendent (the Superintendent), Prince George's County Public Schools (the LEA) had problems with her communication skills when she was illegally withholding my son's education records from my access for more than one year qualifying herself for criminal charges. I trust by now you have understood that I believe it was not a problem with her communication skills, but she was willfully denying me the access. However, this does not imply that appropriate communication skills is not required for Associate Superintendents. Please know that communication skills are essential skills required for handling the matters of children with disabilities. It is important that Associate Superintendents possess those skills. While it has been several years since the Superintendent was at the LEA, I am not sure where she worked before joining the LEA. The fact that the Superintendent was willfully withholding the access to the records is not an excuse for not having appropriate communication skills. I believe that the Superintendent will not able to conduct these illegal activities without the support from Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer (the CEO) of the LEA . As I explained to you recently I had requested the CEO to assign a supervisor for the Superintendent.

However, the CEO responded asking me whether there was anything that she could do. When I asked her whether it was the responsibility of the County Executive or Board of Education to assign a supervisor for the Superintendent, there was no communication from her.

At the same time as I received the above referenced correspondences, I also received indirect inquiry regarding whether I believe the CEO and her Designee Ms. Shauna Battle had problems with their communication skills while they were withholding the conducting of a hearing for more than a year. While it is important to have proper leadership for the school system, not having such leadership does not imply non existence of communication skills. However this does not mean that leaders of public agencies do not require necessary communication skills. As I explained to you several times, pursuant to 34 C.F.R. §300.33 and section 612(a)(11) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the term public agency includes the State Educational Agency (SEA). IDEA implementing regulations (the Regulations) require that the SEA must establish and maintain qualifications to ensure that personnel necessary to carry out the purposes of the Regulations are appropriately and adequately prepared and trained. Illegal activities of Maryland officials may not be used as justification for noncompliance with the Regulations.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation for the education of children with disabilities in Maryland. If you have further questions or need clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Hameed Jamarussadiq

c: Laurie VanderPloeg
Gregg Corr
Christine Pilgrim
Gbenimah Slopadoe
Karen B. Salmon
Carol A. Williamson
Trinell Bowman
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