



OFFICE OF THE STATE
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

March 18, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

Nigel Atwell
P.O. Box 15848
Washington, DC 20003

RE: State Complaint No. 025-019 Notice of Letter of Decision

Dear Mr. Atwell:

On January 26, 2026, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) received a State complaint from you alleging that District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) violated the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The allegations raised in the complaint, and further clarified by a review of documents and interviews, raised the following issues under the jurisdiction of the State Complaint Office:

1. 34 CFR §300.323(c)(2)
 - a. Failure to provide specialized instruction and speech therapy services to students in the Independence and Learning Support self-contained classroom during the 2024-2025 school year.
2. 34 CFR §300.324
 - a. Failure to obtain parental agreement to amend student IEPs without convening a meeting to students in the Independence and Learning Support self-contained classroom during the 2024-2025 school year.

OSSE was not provided consent to release personally identifiable information to the complainant or notified of an exception to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or the IDEA (34 CFR §99.31; 34 CFR §300.622). In the absence of the requisite consent or authority, OSSE may not provide the personally identifiable information from the complaint decision to you. (34 IDELR 264 (OSEP 2000); 110 LRP 1017 (Family Policy Compliance Office, 2002))

On March 18, 2026, OSSE issued a Letter of Decision in this matter which was addressed to DCPS. The Letter of Decision included findings of noncompliance regarding failures to provide speech-language services in accordance with the IEPs of 60 students during the 2024-25 school year and follow appropriate IEP amendment procedures for three students and make an appropriate ESY service determination for one student. Based on this finding of noncompliance, DCPS is required to implement corrective actions ordered by the Letter of Decision.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Kirstin.Hansen@dc.gov or 202-741-0274.

Sincerely,

Kirstin Hansen

Kirstin Hansen
State Complaints Manager
Office of Special Education