



ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

14201 School Lane | Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 | 301-952-6115
boe.ethicspanel@pgcps.org | www.pgcps.org/offices/board-of-education

ADVISORY OPINION OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION ETHICS PANEL

Background: On April 17, 2026, [REDACTED] Principal of [REDACTED] submitted a request for an advisory opinion under Board Policy 0107 (Ethics Regulations). Ms. [REDACTED] seeks guidance regarding whether she can contract with Mainstream Educational Group to bring an extended learning opportunity to her school. Mainstream Educational Group would compensate [REDACTED] teachers to serve as tutors who work with [REDACTED] students in their after school program. Mrs. [REDACTED] s mother, Dr. [REDACTED] is a paid consultant for Mainstream Educational Group.

Issue Presented: Whether Mrs. [REDACTED] s proposed extended learning opportunity with Mainstream Educational Group creates a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest under Board Policy 0107.

Decision: After reviewing the request and the provisions of Board Policy 0107, the Ethics Panel finds that Mrs. [REDACTED] s procurement of Mainstream Educational Group would be a conflict of interest violating Board Policy 0107.

Rationale and Policy Citations: Section IV.B.1. of Board Policy 0107 covers participation in prohibited conduct and interests. It provides that a PGCPs employee or official "...may not participate in any matter in which any of the following is a participant: ... (c) A business entity with which the official or, to the knowledge of the official, a qualified relative of the official is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment; (d) A business entity that is a party to an existing contract with the school official or which, to the knowledge of the official, a qualified relative of the official, if the contract reasonably could be expected to result in a conflict between the private interests of the official and the school system or Board duties of the official..."

In this case, Mrs. [REDACTED] entered into a contract with Mainstream Educational Group, an approved vendor with PGCPs, to provide after school tutoring services for students in Grades 3 through 5. Mrs. [REDACTED] s Mother, Dr. [REDACTED] is a consultant for Mainstream Educational Group. Despite the fact that Mrs. [REDACTED] was assigned a point of contact to which she is not related or that Mrs. [REDACTED] is not financially benefiting from this specific contract does not mitigate the fact that the contract is direct violation of board policy. Additionally, Mrs. [REDACTED] s mother s employment with the vendor could potentially impair Mrs. [REDACTED] s impartiality or independence of judgment or create an actual or apparent conflict of interest, regardless.

Conclusion: Accordingly, the Ethics Panel determines that Mrs. [REDACTED] should not enter into any business relationship or contract with Mainstream Educational Group since her mother is a consultant for the company. Mrs. [REDACTED] may continue to search for another PGCPs approved vendor with whom she has no relational ties, to provide these same extended learning opportunities to her students.

Date: May 8, 2026
Advisory Opinion 26-02

Sincerely,

Symone Stone
Chair, Ethics Advisory Panel