

Statement: PGCPs

Statement on Administrative Leave

June 1, 2017

For Immediate Release

CONTACT:

Office of Communications

301-952-6001

communications@pgcps.org (<mailto:communications@pgcps.org>)

Over the last two years, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) has increased our focus on student safety in order to protect every child. Safe learning environments support our college and career-readiness goals for all students. We will not accept inappropriate or abusive behaviors towards children. No price is too high for a child's well-being.

The number of PGCPS employees on administrative leave is substantially higher due to our heightened emphasis on mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse/neglect. Correspondingly, administrative leave pay totals have increased during that time. The school system is legally required to pay the salaries in question, which were accounted for in the budget. Additionally, our substitute position costs are approximately \$7 million to \$13 million lower than previous years.

In preparation for the 2017-18 school year, we have spent the last several weeks reviewing all student safety administrative procedures. We will announce recommended changes in June. We will also begin employee training this summer that reflects situations encountered this year regarding Child Protective Services reporting requirements, student behavior and classroom management.

With additional employee training and other systemic changes, we expect improvements next school year.

-30-

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.