

February 16, 2021

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Chris Ragsdale  
[Chris.ragsdale@cobb12.org](mailto:Chris.ragsdale@cobb12.org)  
Superintendent  
Cobb County School System  
514 Glover St. SE  
Marietta, GA 30060-2706

Dear Mr. Ragsdale:

Cognia has received numerous complaints regarding Cobb County School System. The complaints have been submitted to Cognia by members of the community and staff. This letter is to notify you of the complaints and to request a written response from you.

The complaints primarily center on the Cobb County Board of Education upholding its duties as a governing body and selected members adhering to their roles and responsibilities as members of the Board. The following items are representative examples of concerns specified within the complaints.

**Board of Education Members**

- Exhibit a lack of understanding regarding their roles and responsibilities as members of the Board.
- Do not demonstrate collegiality with respect to their differences or work cohesively to promote student achievement and the success of the district.
- Do not adhere to a Code of Ethics regarding board conduct during Board of Education meetings.
- Do not adhere to ethical practices for fiscal oversight.
- Make decisions that seem unethical, discriminatory, or inhumane.
- Are not communicating transparently to staff and community stakeholders on issues of current importance and related decisions. For example, the Board has not been responsive to requests for discussion on items related to teacher and staff support and safety improvements during this pandemic.
- Have not been responsive to requests for discussion related to the study and expansion of targeted literacy interventions based on data about student performance.

The nature of the complaints suggests that Cobb County School System may not be adhering to the listed *Cognia Performance Standards for School Systems*:

- **Standard 1.4:** The governing authority establishes and ensures adherence to policies that are designed to support system effectiveness.
- **Standard 1.5:** The governing authority adheres to a code of ethics and functions within defined roles and responsibilities.
- **Standard 2.1:** Learners have equitable opportunities to develop skills and achieve the content and learning priorities established by the system.

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- **Standard 3.8:** The system allocates human, material, and fiscal resources in alignment with the system's identified needs and priorities to improve student performance and organizational effectiveness.

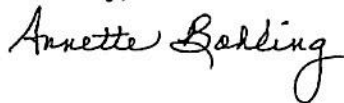
In adherence to *Cognia Policies and Procedures for Accreditation and Certification*, Cobb County School System is required to respond to the complaint. Your response should be received in our Cognia Accreditation Services Office no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. Please direct your response to Dr. André Harrison, Vice President, by either email or U.S. mail:

Dr. André Harrison  
Cognia Accreditation Services  
7665 S. Research Drive  
Tempe, AZ, 85284  
[andre.harrison@cognia.org](mailto:andre.harrison@cognia.org)

If, after reviewing your response, Cognia believes Cobb County School System may be in violation of any accreditation Standards, Assurances or policies, a Special Review Team may be appointed.

Please feel welcome to contact Dr. Harrison with any questions.

Sincerely,



Annette Bohling, J.D.  
Chief Global Accreditation Officer, Cognia

Encl: *Cognia Accreditation and Certification Policies and Procedures*  
*Cognia Accreditation Performance Standards*