

April 19, 2021

Mr. Chris Ragsdale, Superintendent
Cobb County School System
514 Glover St. SE
Marietta, GA 30060-2706

Dear Mr. Ragsdale:

This letter serves as a follow up to our February 23, 2021, notification to Cobb County School System requesting a written response to complaints received by Cognia against the district. Accordingly, Cognia is in receipt of the requested written response from the district dated March 26, 2021. Thank you for submitting this information.

Based on our review of the information contained in the March 26, 2021, response letter, Cognia has determined that a Special Review is warranted. This decision is also supported by additional complaints received against the district since our February 23, 2021, notification to you. The nature of the additional complaints aligned with many of the allegations cited within the notification letter that your district received on February 23, 2021.

As cited in the February 23, 2021, notification letter, the nature of the complaints suggests that Cobb County School System may not be adhering to *Cognia Performance Standards for School Systems* as listed. The Special Review will focus on the complaint allegations in relation to the listed Accreditation Standards.

- **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.
- **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.

A Special Review Team comprised of trained professionals will be appointed to conduct the Special Review. The review will be conducted in a remote modality. The Special Review will provide all parties with the opportunity to review information and evidence related to the above listed Accreditation Standards. Any findings of the Team will be substantiated through the *Cognia Performance Standards for School Systems* and the *Cognia Accreditation and Certification Policies and Procedures*. The Review Team will provide Improvement Priorities, if necessary, that will require decisive action for correction on the part of the district with follow-up documentation submitted to Cognia within a timeframe as identified by Cognia. Also, a written report of the Special Review will be provided to Cobb County School System.

We will work with you to select mutually agreeable dates for the Special Review. The team roster will be provided to you upon its confirmation. We will also share information with you regarding Cognia's protocol for remote reviews.

Cobb County School System is responsible for all costs associated with the Special Review, including the Special Review fee of \$9,000.00.

Cobb County School System is expected to accommodate and support all aspects of the Special Review. Expectations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Identify and make available a district contact person for communication and coordination with Cognia and the Lead Evaluator of the Special Review Team.
- Prepare and submit into eProve Workspace any documents and evidence representative of the district relevant to the cited Accreditation Standards and complaint allegations.
- Host the Special Review Team on the dates agreed upon by the district and Cognia.
- Assist in arranging interviews of Board of Education members, district leadership staff, school-level staff, and other stakeholders as requested by the Special Review Team Lead Evaluator.
- Enable access to digital platforms as requested by the Special Review Team Lead Evaluator.

Moving forward, the Lead Evaluator will work with the district's designated contact person to develop the Special Review schedule and other logistical details. Please forward the name and contact information for your district's contact person to Dr. André L. Harrison, Vice President of Accreditation Services at andre.harrison@cognia.org.

Please contact Dr. Harrison with any questions regarding the Special Review or for further information.

Sincerely,



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

Encl: Cognia Performance Standards for School Systems
Cognia Accreditation and Certification Policies and Procedures