



September 29, 2021

Ms. Marcella E. Franczkowski, M.S.
Assistant State Superintendent
Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Re: Teaching and Learning about Clothes

Dear Ms. Franczkowski:

I noticed that you have undermined the importance of clothes for children with disabilities. As I explained, clothes include, but not limited to, shirts and pants. Some children with disabilities need extra clothes due to their disabilities. You probably have heard that sometimes you need to put yourself into somebody else's shoes to better understand things. If you don't understand this, please don't try to physically fit yourself into any shoes. While some children with disabilities have more accidents due to their disabilities, accidents can happen to anyone, for example by having diarrhea. Imagine the following hypothetical scenario:

Suppose when you came to your office, you needed change of clothes. While you have extra clothes in your office, MSDE insists that you wear Dr. Carol Williamson's extra clothes. You definitely don't want to do that in spite of them being correctly fit you. But, you had no choice. You wear them and go back home. Your parents look at you very strangely asking what happened to you. You were so embarrassed and was speechless for at least a minute. While your speechlessness and inability to communicate was for short period, imagine someone having that for a long time like permanent in life.

On top of this, suppose you saw Dr. Williamson coughing in her office, you wanted to ask ask if she has COVID, but you were afraid to ask, as she is your boss. When you think about her clothes that you wore you get reminded of her coughs.

Imagine, the next day you returned to office, the MSDE changed its policy to allow everyone to use their own extra clothes. But, in the meantime, Dr. Nancy Birenbaum swapped your extra clothes with someone else's extra clothes as part of a [corrective action](#) per the principal of the school where she got her Ph.D. from.

Suppose, when you needed extra clothes next time, you were happy that you can wear your own clothes. So, you quickly wears the extra clothes in your office without realizing that it is someone else's clothes and rush home in the afternoon. When you reached home, your parents again look at you strangely asking the same thing as before!

When the next day you returned to your office, you found out that Dr. Birenbaum swapped your extra clothes and you asked her about it. Dr. Birenbaum responded that the [corrective action](#) was completed! After you got upset, Dr. Birenbaum agrees to revert the corrective action, which is to swap the extra clothes again. After its implementation, you see your extra clothes back in your office. But, you are not sure who wore it the previous day and get reminded about Dr. Williamson's cough.

Imagine all these happened in spite of you having an one to one aide in your office, like a secretary paid with taxpayer's money.

As I explained earlier, the above are hypothetical scenario to help you understand the importance of clothes for children with disabilities. I understand that there is no guarantee that you will demonstrate an understanding. I request you to ensure that all children with disabilities have access to their clothes for them to receive Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in Maryland regardless of what MSDE staff do with their clothes. I also request you to ensure that, you and your staff doesn't interfere with the rights of children with disabilities to have access to their clothes. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Hameed Jamarussadiq

c: David J. Cantrell
Gregg Corr
Christine Pilgrim
Gbenimah Slopadoe
Mohammed Choudhury

Carol A. Williamson
Monica Goldson
Trinell Bowman
Nancy Birenbaum