



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

PG 504-25

Delegate J. Woods

**Prince George's County Public Schools – Office of Integrity
and Compliance - Alterations**

POSITION

OPPOSE

The Prince George's County Council opposes PG 504 - 25 - Prince George's County Public Schools – Office of Integrity and Compliance - Alterations, which proposes substantial changes to the Office of Integrity and Compliance (OIC) and serves as an independent employee within the Prince George's County Public Schools system.

The Office of Integrity and Compliance was established by legislation passed in 2023 to serve as an independent oversight body for Prince George's County Public Schools, ensuring ethical operations and preventing fraud, waste, and abuse. However, PG 504-25 seeks to relocate the Office under the County Government, diminishing its autonomy and potentially subjecting it to political influence. This move undermines the Office's ability to conduct truly independent investigations into school system operations.

Additionally, the bill mandates that the Office generate savings four times its budget or face abolition. This arbitrary threshold places undue pressure on an oversight body that was designed to protect public funds and improve governance rather than operate as a cost-cutting mechanism. Effective oversight should not be contingent on a financial quota but rather on its ability to prevent misconduct and improve school system operations.

Given that this Office has not yet had the opportunity to fully implement its oversight responsibilities, it is premature to mandate such substantial changes so soon after its establishment. The County should allow time to assess its effectiveness under the existing framework before considering major modifications.

For these reasons, the Prince George's County Council strongly urges the delegation to oppose PG 504-25 and allow the Office of Integrity and Compliance to function as originally intended.

Prepared by: Ashlar Government Relations on behalf of Prince George's County Council.

Wayne K. Curry Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772