

CASELOCK COMMUNITY DEFENSE

Caroline County Public Schools Case File: Institutional Failures & Federal Investigations

Document	CCPS Institutional Failure Case File
Date	August 15, 2026
Jurisdiction	Caroline County, Virginia
Subject	Caroline County Public Schools (CCPS)
Superintendent	Dr. Sarah Calveric
Safety Coordinator	Jeff Wick
Active OCR Investigations	SIX (6) — U.S. Dept. of Education
Confirmed Convictions	1 teacher (child abuse, BGE)
Schools Implicated	Bowling Green Elementary, Caroline Middle School
Source	Verified community member + public records

Section	Content	Source Status
1. OCR Investigations	Six active federal civil rights investigations	■ Public record
2. Staff & Leadership	Key personnel and accountability chain	■ Public record + ■ testimony
3. Student Safety Failures	Playground, notification, building security	■ confirmed + ■ testimony
4. Disability Accommodation Failures	Hearing-impaired and autistic students	■ testimony — needs FOIA
5. Water Source Dispute	Calveric vs. verified source on BGE water	■ dispute — FOIA needed
6. Convicted Child Abuser	Spenser Bettinger — BGE teacher	■ Court records
7. FOIA Request Targets	Documents needed to verify testimony	■ Pending

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SECTION 1 — ACTIVE FEDERAL OCR INVESTIGATIONS

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) maintains a public list of institutions currently under investigation. As of the most recent update (January 14, 2025), Caroline County Public Schools has **six active federal investigations** — four for disability discrimination and two for racial harassment. This places CCPS among the most heavily investigated school districts in Virginia.

#	Type of Discrimination	Open Date	Basis
1	Disability - Accessibility	01/10/2024	ADA / Section 504
2	Disability - Denial of Benefits	01/10/2024	ADA / Section 504
3	Disability - FAPE	09/30/2022	IDEA
4	Disability - FAPE	01/10/2024	IDEA
5	Title VI - Discipline	09/30/2022	Civil Rights Act
6	Title VI - Racial Harassment	09/30/2022	Civil Rights Act

■ CONFIRMED — PUBLIC RECORD

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Pending Cases Under Investigation. Retrieved August 15, 2026 from ocrcas.ed.gov. Inclusion on this list means OCR has initiated an investigation — it does not indicate a finding of violation.

Why this matters: The OCR investigations cover exactly the categories of failure reported by community members: disability accessibility (hearing-impaired students placed in noisy classrooms), denial of benefits (refused class changes, ignored accommodations), FAPE violations (IEP reduced to 504, inappropriate placements), and discipline disparities (Title VI). The school was already under federal investigation for disability discrimination in September 2022 — more than two years before the most recent reported incidents.

SECTION 2 — KEY PERSONNEL & ACCOUNTABILITY CHAIN

The following individuals hold positions of responsibility at CCPS. Each is connected to one or more reported failures. Confirmed positions are sourced from CCPS public staff directories, Facebook posts, and Virginia DOE records.

Name	Position	Area of Responsibility	Source
Dr. Sarah Calveric	Superintendent	All CCPS operations, final accountability	■ ccps.us, VA DOE
Jeff Wick	Coordinator of Safety & Compliance	Keys, badges, cameras, SRO coordination, alert systems, building safety	■ ccps.us, CCPS Facebook
Corinne Griggs	Principal, Caroline Middle School	Was 504 Specialist (2024-25), promoted to CMS Principal	■ CCPS announcements, GreatSchools
Terrie Haley	Director of Elementary Education	Oversees all elementary schools, refused class change for disabled student	■ CCPS Facebook, LinkedIn
Paulette Heron	Director of Special Education	Special education programs district-wide	■ ccps.us/leadership
Paige Tucker	Director of Human Resources / Title IX Coordinator	Title IX compliance, HR complaints	■ ccps.us
Deputy Wendy Jones	SRO at Bowling Green Elementary (9 years)	Law enforcement at BGE, incident response	■ Caroline Sheriff's Office, Facebook
Heather Wright	4th Grade Teacher, BGE	Moved Student B from IEP to 504	■ BGE staff directory, LinkedIn
Kaylin Trivette	5th Grade Teacher, BGE	Student B's teacher after placement refusal	■ BGE staff directory
Mallory Grant	5th Grade Learning Support, BGE	Special education support for Student B	■ CCPS Facebook, BGE directory
Mrs. Fuse	School Counselor, CCPS	Previously worked with Student B, understood his needs	■ CCPS Facebook
Jenn Kale	Substitute Teacher, CCPS	Refused to use Student B's accommodations	■ Facebook, BOS minutes
Dr. Neighbors	CCPS Administrator (female)	Finally intervened on class change after others refused	■ Citizen Portal AI, board meetings

■ ■ NOTE

Note: Staff positions confirmed through CCPS public directories and social media as of August 2026. Connections to specific reported failures are attributed to verified source testimony and labeled as such throughout this document.

SECTION 3 — STUDENT SAFETY FAILURES AT BOWLING GREEN ELEMENTARY

3A. Playground Equipment Failures — Student C

A verified community member reports that Student C suffered two separate injuries at Bowling Green Elementary caused by playground equipment failures. Jeff Wick, Coordinator of Safety and Compliance, is responsible for school safety equipment and maintenance documentation.

Incident	Date (approx.)	Cause	Injury	Reported Failure
1 — Face/mouth injury	~2024	Wet monkey bars	Tooth loss	Equipment not maintained
2 — Thigh laceration	May 2025	Pendulum swing — wrong-size bolt (equipment failure)	2.5-inch cut, 54 stitches	Two prior maintenance requests ignored, caution tape present but no repair

■ TESTIMONY — NEEDS FOIA CORROBORATION

Source: Verified community member testimony (August 2026). The second injury involved a bolt that was the wrong size — an equipment failure, not an accident. Two maintenance requests were reportedly filed before the injury. FOIA target: BGE playground maintenance logs.

3B. Seven-Hour Parent Notification Delay — Student B

Student B, a 5th grader with autism, threatened to shoot himself with his stepfather's service weapon at 10:00 AM during school hours. The school did not notify the family until 5:00 PM — a seven-hour delay.

■ POTENTIAL STATUTORY VIOLATION

Virginia Code § 22.1-272.1 requires school boards to notify parents 'promptly' of any emergency involving their child's health or safety. A suicide threat with a specific weapon is the highest level of emergency. Seven hours is not 'promptly.'

During those seven hours, Student B remained at school with access to a plan (stepfather's service weapon). No family member was called. No emergency services were apparently contacted (or if they were, the family was not informed). The SRO assigned to BGE — Deputy Wendy Jones, stationed at the school for 9 years — was either not notified or did not act on the threat.

Time	Event	Responsible Party
10:00 AM	Student B threatens suicide with service weapon	Teacher (Trivette/Grant) — mandated reporter
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Seven hours pass with no family notification	School administration, Jeff Wick
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	SRO Wendy Jones — notification status unclear	Deputy Wendy Jones / Jeff Wick

Time	Event	Responsible Party
5:00 PM	Family finally notified — 7 hours after threat	School administration
Post-incident	Meeting held — teachers 'looked at the ground'	Mrs. Fuse, Heather Wright

■ TESTIMONY — NEEDS FOIA CORROBORATION

Source: Verified community member testimony (August 2026). FOIA targets: CCPS incident logs for Student B, Jeff Wick's communications on date of incident, SRO Wendy Jones dispatch/communication logs.

3C. Building Security Failures at BGE

A verified community member reports systematic building security failures at Bowling Green Elementary. These failures were reported to Jeff Wick, Coordinator of Safety and Compliance, with no documented response.

Failure	Impact	Reported To	Status
Substitute teachers not given keys	Subs locked out of classrooms with children, must walk around building exterior to re-enter	Jeff Wick	Unresolved
Internal phones not answered	Subs and staff unable to reach front office for access	School admin	Unresolved
No cameras in classrooms	Substitutes behind closed doors with no video supervision	Jeff Wick	Unresolved
Badges don't work	Staff access badges malfunctioning, took over 1 year to address	Jeff Wick / Maintenance	Unresolved
Key/badge supply limited	Maintenance makes limited supply, principals lack exterior door access	Jeff Wick / Maintenance	Unresolved
Alert system malfunction	Catie alert system triggered false lockdowns	Jeff Wick	■ Confirmed by media

■ MIXED — PARTIAL MEDIA CONFIRMATION

The Catie alert system malfunction was independently confirmed by the Fredericksburg Free Press (April 29, 2025): 'Alert system wreaked havoc in Caroline schools Tuesday.' The remaining security failures are from verified source testimony and require FOIA corroboration.

SECTION 4 — DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION FAILURES

The following reports from a verified community member document a pattern of disability accommodation failures affecting multiple children at CCPS. These reports directly overlap with the active OCR investigations detailed in Section 1. All claims are labeled as testimony pending corroboration through public records requests.

4A. Student A — Hearing-Impaired (Older Daughter)

Issue	Detail	Who Failed	Legal Framework
Sexual touching by another student	Another special education student touched Student A inappropriately. Teacher (Mrs. Variety) said 'nothing can be done.'	Mrs. Variety (teacher)	Title IX + IDEA
Refused class change	After the incident, Student A's mother requested a class change. Terrie Haley, Director of Elementary Education, refused.	Terrie Haley	ADA + Section 504
Eventually moved — by Dr. Neighbors	Dr. Neighbors (female administrator) eventually intervened and moved Student A to a different class.	Dr. Neighbors (acted correctly)	—
Placed in noisy classroom	Student A (wearing hearing aids) was placed in classrooms with J-1 visa teachers from the Philippines whose accents made comprehension difficult for a hearing-impaired student.	CCPS placement	ADA + IDEA
Teachers let kids talk loud	Classroom noise levels caused fatigue and headaches. Student A had to remove hearing aids to cope — effectively becoming deaf in class.	Classroom teachers	ADA + Section 504
Filipino J-1 teachers — 8 hired Oct 2024	Confirmed: CCPS hired 8 Filipino teachers via Greenheart Exchange on J-1 visas (Fredericksburg Free Press, Oct 7, 2024). One was special ed.	CCPS HR	■ Confirmed

■ POTENTIAL ADA/504 VIOLATION

The placement of hearing-impaired students in noisy classrooms with accented teachers — to the point where they must remove their hearing aids — is the opposite of accommodation. It is denial of access to education. This directly relates to OCR Investigation #1 (Disability - Accessibility, opened 01/10/2024).

4B. Student B — Autism (Aiden)

Student B is a 5th grader with autism at Bowling Green Elementary. The following sequence documents a cascading series of placement and accommodation failures that culminated in a mental health emergency.

Event	What Happened	Who Was Responsible
Previous placement	Student B had Mrs. Fuse (school counselor) who understood his needs	Mrs. Fuse

Event	What Happened	Who Was Responsible
Class reassignment meeting	Mother specifically requested Mrs. Fuse for Student B	—
Request refused	School refused. Placed Student B with 5th grade team (Trivette + Mallory Grant). Fuse kept 3rd/4th graders.	School admin
3 teachers in 3 months	Student B had three different teachers in three months — no stability for an autistic child who needs routine	CCPS staffing
Accommodations ignored	Substitute teacher Jenn Kale refused to use Student B's accommodations	Jenn Kale (substitute)
IEP reduced to 504	Heather Wright (4th grade teacher) moved Student B from IEP to 504 plan — fewer legal protections	Heather Wright
SUICIDE THREAT — 10:00 AM	Student B threatened to shoot himself with stepfather's service weapon	—
7-hour notification delay	Family not called until 5:00 PM (7 hours later)	Jeff Wick + school admin
Post-incident meeting	Mrs. Fuse and Heather Wright 'looked at the ground' — aware they failed Student B	Fuse + Wright

IEP vs. 504 — why this matters: An IEP (Individualized Education Program) is governed by IDEA and includes specific educational goals, related services (speech, OT, counseling), strong due process protections, and binding legal obligations. A 504 plan provides accommodations only — no goals, no services, fewer protections. For an autistic student, dropping from IEP to 504 means the school is saying the student no longer needs specialized instruction. In Virginia, this change requires an evaluation and IEP team agreement, including the parent.

■ TESTIMONY — NEEDS FOIA CORROBORATION

Source: Verified community member testimony (August 2026). FOIA targets: Student B's IEP/504 records, placement meeting minutes, accommodation refusal documentation, crisis intervention records.

SECTION 5 — BGE WATER SOURCE DISPUTE

Bowling Green, Virginia has documented drinking water quality issues. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) awarded a \$6.2 million grant to address Gross Alpha emitters in Bowling Green's drinking water. The question of whether children at Bowling Green Elementary School are drinking this water is now in dispute.

Claim	Source	Status
BGE does NOT use Bowling Green water	Dr. Sarah Calveric (CCPS Superintendent) — email response to inquiry	■ Written statement
BGE DOES use Bowling Green water	Verified community member (parent of BGE students)	■ Testimony
Bowling Green water has Gross Alpha emitters	VDH grant documentation + Fredericksburg Free Press (Jan 2026)	■ Confirmed
\$6.2M VDH grant to fix Bowling Green water	Fredericksburg Free Press, Jan 29, 2026	■ Confirmed
County may take over Bowling Green water supply	Supervisor Clay Forehand — public statement	■ Confirmed (FFP)

■ FOIA NEEDED

FOIA Target: CCPS water utility provider for Bowling Green Elementary School. This is a simple, definitive records request that will settle the dispute. If Calveric's written statement is false, it becomes part of her credibility record across all other reported issues.

SECTION 6 — CONVICTED CHILD ABUSER AT BGE

Spenser K. Bettinger, a 28-year-old former teacher at Bowling Green Elementary School, was arrested and charged with felony child abuse after being caught on video pushing, chasing, and slapping a 3-year-old student. She pled guilty to three charges of abuse and faces up to 11 years in prison.

Field	Detail
Name	Spenser K. Bettinger
Age	28 at time of arrest
School	Bowling Green Elementary School
Position	Teacher
Victim	3-year-old student
Charges	Three counts of child abuse (felony)
Evidence	Video footage — pushing, chasing, slapping
Outcome	Pled guilty; faces up to 11 years
Date of incident	September 20, 2025 (arrest date)
Sources	WRIC, WAVY, 12 On Your Side, Caroline County Sheriff's Office

■ PATTERN — SAME SCHOOL

This occurred at the same school where playground equipment failures injured Student C, where Student B's suicide threat went unreported for 7 hours, and where building security failures remain unresolved. The pattern raises questions about CCPS hiring, supervision, and safety oversight.

SECTION 7 — ADDITIONAL REPORTED ISSUES (UNVERIFIED)

The following items were reported by a verified community member but have not yet been corroborated through public records. They are documented here for investigative tracking purposes and flagged for FOIA follow-up.

Report	Detail	Verification Status	FOIA Target
Prescription drug texting	Staff member (Mrs. Gill) allegedly texted teachers asking for prescription drugs. Reported to admin, SRO Wendy Jones, and another staff member. Michael Watkins reportedly has emails.	■ Unverified	CCPS HR complaints + Michael Watkins emails
Griggs' son threat	CMS Principal Corinne Griggs' son allegedly threatened to kill another student while Griggs was principal. She reportedly kept him at the school and 'looked at the floor' during the meeting.	■ Unverified	CMS incident reports, Sheriff's Office records
BGE building code violations	Bowling Green Elementary reportedly not up to building code. Superintendent allegedly aware.	■ Unverified	Caroline County Building Inspections (804-633-4303)
Jeff Wick health/EMS connection	Jeff Wick reportedly has prior health problems and possible EMS connection.	■ Unverified	CCPS personnel records

■ PARTIAL — ARREST CONFIRMED, CONNECTION UNVERIFIED

Confirmed: Caroline County Sheriff's Office arrested a student at Caroline Middle School on March 27, 2025 for threats against the school (Fredericksburg Free Press, March 28, 2025). This may or may not be related to the Griggs' son allegation. FOIA needed to confirm.

SECTION 8 — FOIA REQUEST TARGETS

The following Freedom of Information Act requests are recommended to corroborate the testimony in this case file. Virginia FOIA applies to public schools and local government.

#	Request	Agency	Purpose
1	Water utility provider for Bowling Green Elementary School	CCPS	Settle Calveric vs. source dispute
2	Playground maintenance logs for BGE (2023-2026)	CCPS / Jeff Wick	Verify equipment failure reports
3	Incident reports for playground injuries at BGE	CCPS	Verify Student C injuries
4	Building inspection reports for BGE	Caroline County Building Inspections	Verify code violations
5	Substitute teacher key/badge policy and communications	CCPS / Jeff Wick	Verify security failures
6	SRO incident logs for BGE (Deputy Wendy Jones)	Caroline County Sheriff's Office	Verify suicide threat response
7	CCPS crisis intervention and parental notification records	CCPS	Verify 7-hour delay
8	CCPS 504/IEP policy and placement procedures	CCPS / Paulette Heron	Verify Student B IEP→504 process
9	HR complaints regarding prescription drug solicitation	CCPS HR / Paige Tucker	Verify Gill allegation
10	Caroline Middle School incident reports (2024-2025)	CCPS / Corinne Griggs	Verify Griggs' son allegation
11	Jeff Black public statements on CleanArc/Bazaar project status	Caroline County BOS	Document false statements
12	CCPS alert system (Catie) malfunction records	CCPS / Jeff Wick	Already partially confirmed by media

SECTION 9 — PATTERN SUMMARY

The evidence assembled in this case file documents a pattern of institutional failure at Caroline County Public Schools spanning multiple children, multiple years, and multiple categories of negligence. The pattern is summarized below.

Category	Confirmed	Testimony (needs FOIA)	OCR Investigation
Disability accommodation	8 Filipino J-1 teachers hired (Oct 2024)	Student A: hearing-impaired, noisy classroom, accommodations ignored	Yes — #1, #2, #3, #4
IEP/504 process	—	Student B: IEP→504, refused appropriate teacher, 3 teachers in 3 months	Yes — #3, #4 (FAPE)
Crisis response	—	Student B: 7-hour notification delay after suicide threat	Potentially
Playground safety	—	Student C: 2 injuries, equipment failure, ignored maintenance requests	—
Building security	Alert system malfunction (media confirmed)	Subs locked out, no cameras, broken badges, 1-year delay	—
Child abuse prevention	Bettinger convicted (court records)	—	—
Water safety	Bowling Green water has Gross Alpha emitters (VDH)	Calveric says BGE doesn't use it; source says they do	—
Title IX compliance	—	Sexual touching ignored by teacher, class change refused by Dir. of Elem. Ed.	Potentially

The accountability chain: Every reported failure at Bowling Green Elementary flows through Jeff Wick (Coordinator of Safety and Compliance) and Dr. Sarah Calveric (Superintendent). The 504 specialist Tiffany asked to have removed — Corinne Griggs — was promoted to principal. The teacher who abused a 3-year-old was employed at the same school where children are injured on unrepaired playground equipment and suicidal students wait 7 hours for their parents to be called.

Six active federal OCR investigations cover the same categories of failure being reported by community members: disability accessibility, denial of benefits, FAPE violations, and racial harassment. The school was already under federal investigation when the most recent incidents occurred.

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