



Patrick McGill &lt;pmcgill@benjamin25.org&gt;

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## Formal Concern Regarding DCFS Report, Procedural Failures and Classroom Equity Concerns

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**Aris Mommy27** <lexis25pink@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 19, 2026 at 12:10 PM

To: adrinnin@benjamin25.org, vengstrom@benjamin25.org, bpedersen@benjamin25.org, dpeterson@benjamin25.org, dsutenbach@benjamin25.org, gvlantis@benjamin25.org, pmcgill@benjamin25.org

Cc: Sarah Smith <ssmith@benjamin25.org>, Allison Agres <aagres@benjamin25.org>, lwaters@benjamin25.org, Dawn Krapez <dkrapez@benjamin25.org>, Julie Salamone <jsalamone@benjamin25.org>, Taylor Schweizer <tschweizer@benjamin25.org>

Dear Board Members, Superintendent, Principal, Assistant Principal, Admin Assistants, Director of Student Services and 1st grade Teacher of Evergreen Elementary School Benjamin District 25.

I am writing this email with a heavy heart, deep concern and disappointment regarding the recent DCFS report involving my family.

If there was a legitimate concern related to weapons or safety, I would have expected a school social worker to have been contacted immediately to conduct a threat assessment before escalating the matter to DCFS.

To my knowledge no assessment was completed and no one—not even the school social worker—reached out to determine whether there was any actual threat within our home.

Filing a DCFS report without documented verification or internal professional threat assessment raises serious concerns about whether “responsible cause” as required under 325 ILCS 5/4 was properly established. This reflects a serious lapse in judgment and procedure.

I am an actively involved parent who consistently participates in school events, including volunteering as a “Mystery Reader” in \_\_\_\_\_ class and attending classroom celebrations. As a parent—and especially as someone who is seven months pregnant this situation has placed an enormous emotional physical strain on me during a vulnerable time. As well as unnecessary trauma and stress to my family. Such reports carry significant emotional, reputational, and psychological consequences for families.

I believe open communication could have prevented unnecessary escalation. I would appreciate clarification regarding the procedures that were followed and how the decision to contact DCFS was made. The law also contemplates that such determination be grounded in objective indicators - not assumptions, bias, or unverified statements.

Instead of conducting a fact-based, procedural evaluation, it feels as though the decision appeared to be based on personal bias rather than professional judgment. I have serious concerns regarding cultural competence and diversity awareness in how this situation was handled. Given the circumstances, I cannot ignore the feeling that my family may have been racially profiled. These are serious concerns that deserve transparent investigation and accountability.

Additionally, this situation has brought forward prior concerns I raised on January 17, 2026. I emailed Mrs. Schweizer expressing that \_\_\_\_\_ felt unheard and unseen in the classroom. I also learned that only a small number of students were sent home with spelling words for Friday test. \_\_\_\_\_ was never sent home with spelling words until I reached out advocating for my child. I would like to better understand whether there is data to support why \_\_\_\_\_ was excluded from these opportunities and what criteria are used to determine which students receive advanced or supplemental materials.

It is troubling that it required my direct email for my child to begin receiving additional attention. No child should feel overlooked before a parent advocates on their behalf.

At this time, I am requesting:

1. Written documentation explaining what facts established “reasonable cause” under 325 ILCS 5/4 as well as the exact protocol followed before calling DCFS.
- 2.) Documentation of the school’s protocol for threat assessments and mandatory reporting.
- 3.) Documentation confirming whether a threat assessment was conducted and, if not, why.
- 4.) Copies of any threat assessments documentation or internal incident reports.

- 5.) Clarification of district policy regarding mandated reporting procedures and parent notification practices.
- 6.) A formal district - level review to determine whether mandated reporter obligations, safety protocols, and equity standards were properly applied.
- 7.) Data supporting how students are selected for supplemental or advanced academic resources.
- 8.) Professional development and retraining in cultural competence and bias awareness.

My intention is not to create conflict, but to ensure accountability, equity, and emotional safety for children and families moving forward. I expect transparency, professionalism, and a thorough written response to these concerns within a reasonable timeframe.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Alexis Hall