

Students

Student Complaints and Protests

It is important that there be ways for students to request changes in school policies or make orderly protests when they feel their rights have been violated, policies misapplied, or their freedoms unnecessarily abridged.

Most problems can be solved informally by talking with the teacher or other staff member involved, conferring with the counselor or principal, etc. Students are expected to do everything that they can to solve problems in these ways whenever they can.

If the student(s) feels the problem is an important one and his/her efforts to solve it informally have not been successful, he/she may make a formal complaint.

Formal Complaint Procedures

1. The student should decide if he/she wants help from an adult in making the Complaint. The student may choose someone to help him/her if desired. This person is called an "advocate."
2. The student and the advocate first meet with the principal to make sure he/she is aware of the situation and, if the principal thinks it might help, to make a final try to solve the problem informally.
3. If this attempt fails, the student and the advocate may then make out a Formal Complaint Form which is presented to the principal. The principal signs it to acknowledge receipt.
4. The principal gives a copy of the Complaint to any other staff member who is involved in the problem and forwards a copy to the Superintendent, together with any information, recommendations, and comments he/she feels are important.

5. Within five (5) school days, the Superintendent holds a conference with all persons involved, hears what they have to say, and tries to arrive at a mutually-agreeable solution.
6. If the student or staff member involved in the problem is not satisfied with the suggested solution, they may request that the Superintendent take the matter to the Board for a hearing.
7. The Board hearing must be scheduled no later than the next regular meeting. The Superintendent may request a special meeting if he/she feels there is a need for it.
8. If the matter involves or seems likely to involve an employer/employee relationship issue, the Superintendent may wait to schedule a Board hearing until it is clear whether or not the employee involved intends to take action. If he/she does, the student's Board hearing may be postponed until after the employee's action is terminated.
9. The decision of the Board is final, except that the student may seek satisfaction in a court of law.

Role of the Student Council

If a student filing a formal complaint feels that his/her complaint has relevance or importance to the students as a class, he/she may request the Student Council to file a statement for presentation at the hearing on behalf of the student.

