

# Pendleton School District 16R

Code: **KL**  
Adopted: 10/10/05  
Revised/Readopted: 7/12/10; 2/09/15; 9/21/15;  
12/14/15; 4/11/16  
Orig. Code(s): KL

## Public Complaints

Board members recognize that complaints about schools may be voiced by employees, students, parents and community members from time-to-time. When such complaints are made to a Board member, the Board member shall refer the person making the complaint to the superintendent or designee. A Board member shall not attempt to respond, review, handle or resolve such complaints as the individual board member has no authority to do so.

No staff, student, parent or community member will be denied the right to petition the Board for redress of a grievance, complaints will be referred through the proper administrative process for resolution before investigation or action by the Board. Exceptions are complaints that concern the superintendent or involve Board actions or Board operations.

The Board advises the public there is a proper process for resolving complaints, including but not limited to concerns in the following areas:

1. Instruction;
2. Discipline;
3. Learning materials; or
4. Retaliation against a student or a student's parent who in good faith reported information that the student believes is evidence of a violation of state and federal law, rule or regulation.

Community members, staff, parents and students who have a complaint are encouraged to start at the lowest level in the organization to attempt to resolve the complaint.

The following order will be used unless otherwise identified (see administrative regulation KL-AR - Public Complaint Procedure for specific procedures and timelines):

1. Teacher/Employee;
2. Principal;
3. Superintendent;
4. Board.

Any complaint about school personnel other than the superintendent will be investigated by the administration before consideration and action by the Board. The Board will not hear complaints against employees in a session open to the public unless an employee requests an open session.

Complaints against the principal may be filed with the superintendent.

Complaints against the superintendent should be referred to the Board chair on behalf of the Board.

Complaints against the Board as a whole or against an individual Board member should be made to the Board chair on behalf of the Board.

Complaints against the Board chair may be made directly to the Board vice chair on behalf of the Board.

The superintendent will develop and administer the general complaint process, as appropriate.

If a complaint alleges a violation of state standards or a violation of other statutory or administrative rule for which the State Superintendent of Public Instruction has appeal responsibilities, and the complaint is not resolved at the local level, the district will supply the complainant with appropriate information to file a direct appeal to the State Superintendent as outlined in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 581-022-1940.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 192.610 to -192.690](#)  
[ORS 332.107](#)

[OAR 581-022-1940](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1941](#)

House Bill (HB) 3371 (2015)

Anderson v. Central Point Sch. Dist., 746 F.2d 505 (9th Cir. 1984).  
Connick v. Myers, 461 U.S. 138 (1983).

**Cross Reference(s):**

GBNAA/JFCFA - Cyberbullying  
JFCFA/GBNAA - Cyberbullying  
IIA - Instructional Materials