

Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Cyberbullying Complaint Procedures – Student

Principals and the superintendent have responsibility for investigations concerning hazing, harassment, intimidation or bullying and acts of cyberbullying. The investigator(s) shall be a neutral party having had no involvement in the complaint presented.

Any student, employee or third party who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this policy or feels he/she has been a victim of hazing, harassment, intimidation or bullying and acts of cyberbullying in violation of this policy is encouraged to immediately report his/her concerns.

All complaints will be promptly investigated in accordance with the following procedures:

- Step I** Any hazing, harassment, intimidation or bullying and acts of cyberbullying information (complaints, rumors, etc.) shall be presented to the building principal or superintendent. Complaints against the principal shall be filed with the superintendent. Information may be presented anonymously. Complaints against the superintendent shall be filed with the Board chair. All such information will be reduced to writing and will include the specific nature of the offense and corresponding dates.
- Step II** The district official receiving the complaint shall promptly investigate. Parents will be notified of the nature of any complaint involving their student. The district official will arrange such meetings as may be necessary with all concerned parties within five working days after receipt of the information or complaint. The parties will have an opportunity to submit evidence and a list of witnesses. All findings related to the complaint will be reduced to writing. The district official(s) conducting the investigation shall notify the complainant and parents as appropriate, when the investigation is concluded and a decision regarding disciplinary action, as warranted, is determined.
- Step III** If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision at Step II, he/she may submit a written appeal to the superintendent or designee. Such appeal must be filed within 10 working days after receipt of the Step II decision. The superintendent or designee will arrange such meetings with the complainant and other affected parties as deemed necessary to discuss the appeal. The superintendent or designee shall provide a written decision to the complainant's appeal within 10 working days.
- Step IV** If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision at Step III, a written appeal may be filed with the Board. Such appeal must be filed within 10 working days after receipt of the Step III decision. The Board shall, within 20 working days, conduct a hearing at which time the complainant shall be given an opportunity to present the complaint. The Board shall provide a written decision to the complainant within 10 working days following completion of the hearing.

Direct complaints related to educational programs and services may be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

Documentation related to the incident may be maintained as a part of the student's education records.