

Uniform Grievance Procedure

A student, parent/guardian, employee, or community member should notify any District complaint manager if he or she believes that the Board, its employees, or agents have violated his or her rights guaranteed by the state or federal constitution, state or federal statute, or board policy, or have a complaint regarding:

1. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act;
2. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972;
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;
4. Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq.;
5. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.;
6. Equal Employment Opportunities Act (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act), 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq.;
7. Sexual harassment (Illinois Human Rights Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972);
8. Misuse of funds received for services to improve educational opportunities for educationally disadvantaged or deprived children;
9. Curriculum, instructional materials, and/or programs;
10. Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, 820 ILCS 180;
11. Illinois Equal Pay Act of 2003, 820 ILCS 112; or
12. Provision of services to homeless students.

The complaint manager will attempt to resolve complaints without resorting to this grievance procedure and, if a complaint is filed, to address the complaint promptly and equitably. The right of a person to prompt and equitable resolution of a complaint filed hereunder shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies and use of this grievance procedure does not extend any filing deadline related to the pursuit of other remedies. All deadlines may be extended by the complaint manager as he or she deems appropriate. As used in this policy, "school business days" means days on which the District's main office is open.

1. Filing a Complaint

A person (hereinafter complainant) who wishes to avail him or herself of this grievance procedure may do so by filing a complaint with any District complaint manager. The complainant shall not be required to file a complaint with a particular complaint manager and may request a complaint manager of the same gender. The

complaint manager may request the complainant to provide a written statement regarding the nature of the complaint or require a meeting with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). The complaint manager shall assist the complainant as needed.

2. Investigation

The complaint manager will investigate the complaint or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation on his or her behalf. If the complainant is a student, the complaint manager will notify his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) that they may attend any investigatory meetings in which their child is involved. The complaint and identity of the complainant will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law or this policy, or (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the complainant.

Within 30 school business days of the date the complaint was filed, the complaint manager shall file a written report of his or her findings with the Superintendent. The complaint manager may request an extension of time. If a complaint of sexual harassment contains allegations involving the Superintendent, the written report shall be filed with the Board, which will make a decision in accordance with Section 3 of this policy. The Superintendent will keep the Board informed of all complaints.

3. Decision and Appeal

Within 5 school business days after receiving the complaint manager's report, the Superintendent shall mail his or her written decision to the complainant by U.S. mail, first class, as well as the complaint manager.

Within 10 school business days after receiving the Superintendent's decision, the complainant may appeal the decision to the Board by making a written request to the complaint manager. The complaint manager shall promptly forward all materials relative to the complaint and appeal to the Board. Within 30 school business days, the Board shall affirm, reverse, or amend the Superintendent's decision or direct the Superintendent to gather additional information. Within 5 school business days of the Board's decision, the Superintendent shall inform the complainant of the Board's action.

This grievance procedure shall not be construed to create an independent right to a board hearing. The failure to strictly follow the timelines in this grievance procedure shall not prejudice any party.

Appointing Complaint Managers

The Superintendent shall appoint at least 2 complaint managers, 1 of each gender. The District's nondiscrimination coordinator, if any, may be appointed a complaint manager. The Superintendent shall designate the current complaint managers. Contact the District Office for the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the District's current nondiscrimination coordinator and complaint managers.

■

LEGAL REF.: Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. §621 et seq.
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.
Equal Pay Act, 29 U.S.C. §206(d).
Immigration Reform and Control Act, 8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq.
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq.
McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §11431 et. seq.
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §791 et seq.
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.
Equal Employment Opportunities Act (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act), 42 U.S.C.
§2000e et seq.
Title IX of the Education Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.
Equal Pay Act of 2003, 820 ILCS 112
Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, 820 ILCS 180, 56 Ill. Admin. Code Part 280
775 ILCS 5/1-101
105 ILCS 5/2-3.8, 5/3-10, 5/10-20.7a, 5/10-22.5, 5/22-19, 5/24-4, 5/27.1, and 45/1-15.
23 Ill. Admin. Code §§1.240 and 200-40.

CROSS REF.: 5.10, 5.20, 6.140, 6.170, 6.260, 7.10, 7.20, 8.70, 8.110