

## 5710 PUPIL GRIEVANCE

The Board of Education recognizes that, as citizens, pupils have the right to request redress of grievances. Further, the Board believes that the inculcation of respect for lawful procedures is an important part of the educational process. Accordingly, individual and group grievances should be provided for an appropriate appeal procedures implemented.

For purposes of this policy, a pupil complaint or grievance shall be any such that arises out of actions, procedures, and policies of this Board or its employees or the lack of such policy or procedure.

The Board or its employees will hear the complaints and grievances of the pupils of this district provided that such complaints and grievances are made according to established procedures.

The grievance shall be submitted in writing via established form or signed letter formally describing the grievance to the building principal, the Superintendent, and the Board in turn with a suitable period of time allowed at each level for the hearing of the grievance and the preparation of a response.

At each step, the school authority hearing the grievance may call in the pupil's parent/guardian, provided that the pupil is not eighteen years of age or older. The pupil may conduct the grievance procedure with the help of a parent/guardian at any step.

When a grievance proceeds to the Board, the Board shall render its decision promptly, but in no more than fourteen calendar days. If the Pupil so wishes and if the issue properly falls within his/her jurisdiction, the grievance may be appealed to the commissioner.

The Superintendent shall direct all staff members to respect the right of pupils to press a grievance through proper channels and according to established procedures without fear of reprisal.

Adopted: 27 November 2000

