

# POLICY

## SOUTH ORANGE MAPLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Students  
5710

### STUDENT GRIEVANCE

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The Board of Education believes that students ~~are citizens who~~ possess the right to request redress of grievances and that students should be encouraged to respect lawful procedures for the resolution of disputes. Accordingly, the ~~Superintendent-Board shall~~ **will** establish procedures by which the grievances of students will be heard. ~~Students who express dissent shall be made aware of the lawful procedures available for them for the resolution of their grievances.~~

For the purposes of this policy, a student grievance means any complaint that arises out of the acts or policies of this Board or the acts of its employees.

A student grievance will be heard in the following manner:

1. A student should first make the grievance known to the staff member most closely involved or with a guidance counselor and both shall attempt to resolve the matter informally and directly;
2. A grievance not resolved at the first step must be reduced to a written statement in which the student sets forth the specific nature of the grievance, the facts that gave rise to it, the relief sought, and the reasons why that relief is appropriate;
3. The written grievance may be submitted to the Building Principal, the Superintendent, and the Board of Education, in that order and within a suitable period of time to be allowed at each level for the hearing of the grievance and the preparation of a response;

#### **Optional**

[At each level above, the student will have the opportunity to be heard personally;]

4. At each step beyond the first, the school authority hearing the grievance may summon the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a grievant who is not an adult. The grievant may summon the assistance of ~~his/her~~ **their** parent(s) or legal guardian(s) at any step;



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5. A student grievance that proceeds to the Board will be determined promptly and the Board will issue a decision in no more than ten calendar days. The student will be informed of the right to appeal a decision of the Board to the Commissioner of Education.

The Superintendent shall direct all staff members to respect the right of students to seek redress of grievances by lawful procedures without fear of reprisal.

Cross reference: Policy Guide No. 9130

Adopted: 2 April 2001

Revised:

