

5710 STUDENT GRIEVANCE

The Board of Education believes ~~that~~ students possess the right to request redress of grievances ~~and that students should be encouraged to respect lawful procedures for the resolution and~~ of disputes. Accordingly, the Board will establish and observe procedures by which the grievances of students will be heard.

For the purposes of this ~~P~~policy, a student grievance means any complaint that arises out of the acts or policies of this Board or the acts of its employees. The procedure outlined in this Policy shall be used to address a student grievance that is not elsewhere in a Board policy, regulation, and/or grievance with a procedure specifically designed to address the conduct in question.

A student grievance ~~will~~ shall be heard in the following manner:

1. First Level

- a. The student or parent may submit a grievance to the teaching staff member alternately to the building administrator or principal designee most closely related to the policy or act giving rise to the grievance, within ten school days of the conduct.

2. Second Level

- a. If the grievance is not resolved at the first level, the student or parent may appeal the teaching staff member's decision by submitting a written appeal of the decision to the Principal or designee within ten school days of receipt of the teaching staff member's written decision.
- (1) The written grievance shall include:
 - (a) The specific nature of the grievance and a brief statement of the facts giving rise to it;
 - (b) Any documentation the student or parent has supporting their request; and



(c) The remedy sought by the student or student's parent.

b. The Principal or designee will inform the student and parent, in writing, of the Principal's or designee's decision regarding the appeal within ten school days of receiving the written appeal from the student or parent and their right to appeal the Principal's or designee's decision to the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

3. Third Level

a. If the grievance is not resolved at the second level, the student or parent may appeal the Principal's or designee's decision by submitting a written request to the Superintendent or designee. This written request for an appeal must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee by the student or parent within ten school days of the student's or parent's receipt of the Principal's or designee's written decision and must include the same information the parent or student submitted in the written grievance outlined in 2.a.(1) above.

b. The Superintendent or designee will review the written request for an appeal and supporting documentation submitted by the school staff members and the student or parent to inform the student and parent of the decision regarding the appeal within ten school days of receiving the written request for an appeal.

c. A student or parent may appeal the Superintendent or designee's decision to the Board. An appeal that proceeds to the Board will be determined promptly and the Board will issue a decision in no more than thirty calendar days. The student will be informed of the right to appeal a decision of the Board to the Commissioner of Education.



~~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 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; 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;~~

~~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;~~

~~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~~

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POLICY

SOUTH ORANGE MAPLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

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