

Maple Creek School District

Board Policy

Uniform Complaint Procedures

BP 1312.3

Community Relations

Note: To address prohibited discrimination and possible violations of state and federal laws governing educational programs, 5 CCR 4621 mandates districts to adopt uniform complaint policies and procedures consistent with the state's complaint procedures specified in 5 CCR 4600-4687. Pursuant to Education Code 234.1, as amended by AB 9 (Ch. 723, Statutes 2011), districts are required to adopt a process for receiving and investigating complaints alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying that meets the requirements specified in the law, including applicable timelines and an appeal process to follow if a complainant disagrees with the resolution of the complaint. The California Department of Education (CDE) monitors districts for compliance with these procedures through its Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) process. The FPM includes a review of written district policies and procedures for required language, including for discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying against students pursuant to Education Code 234.1, and a review of records of required activities, such as annual notification provided to students, parents/guardians, employees, and other school community members.

The Governing Board recognizes that the district has the primary responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The district shall investigate and seek to resolve any complaints alleging failure to comply with such laws and/or alleging unlawful discrimination, complaints involving the implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula, harassment, intimidation, or bullying in accordance with the uniform complaint procedures.

***Note: The following paragraph lists types of discrimination prohibited by state and federal law, as well as the protected groups listed in 5 CCR 4610. ***

The district shall use the uniform complaint procedures to resolve any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying in district programs and activities based on actual or perceived characteristics of race or ethnicity, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information, or any other characteristic identified in Education Code 200 or 220, Penal Code 422.55, or Government Code 11135, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)

(cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

***Note: 5 CCR 4610 specifies programs and activities for which state and/or federal funding is provided to districts and for which districts are required to establish a uniform system of complaint processing. In addition, Education Code 32289 authorizes an individual to file a complaint if he/she believes that the district has not complied with the school safety planning requirements of 20 USC 7114(d)(7). The CDE has interpreted this to mean that complaints as to the development and adoption of the school safety plan may be considered under this procedure. ***

***Note: In addition, pursuant to Education Code 49013, as added by AB 1575 (Ch. 776, Statutes of 2012), districts are mandated to adopt policies and procedures authorizing complaints to be filed using the uniform complaint procedures when a district is alleged to have violated the prohibition against requiring students to pay fees, deposits, or other charges as defined in Education Code 49010, unless authorized by law. For information about authorized student fees, see AR 3260 - Fees and Charges. ***

Uniform complaint procedures shall also be used to address any complaint alleging the district's failure to comply with the prohibition against requiring students to pay fees, deposits, or other charges for participation in educational activities, the requirements for the development and adoption of a school safety plan, and state and/or federal laws in adult education programs, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, career technical and technical education and training programs, child care and development programs, child nutrition programs, and special education programs.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)
(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)
(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)
(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)
(cf. 3555 - Nutrition Program Compliance)
(cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)
(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)
(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)
(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)
(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)
(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)
(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)
(cf. 6178.1 - Work-Based Learning)
(cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)
(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

***Note: 5 CCR 4621 mandates that district policy ensure that complainants are protected from retaliation. ***

The Board prohibits any form of retaliation against any complainant in the complaint process. Participation in the complaint process shall not in any way affect the status, grades, or work assignments of the complainant.

The Board encourages the early, informal resolution of complaints at the site level whenever possible.

***Note: 5 CCR 4631 authorizes the district to utilize alternative dispute resolution methods, including mediation, to resolve complaints before initiating a formal investigation. The following optional paragraph provides for a neutral mediator and should be revised to reflect district practice. ***

The Board recognizes that a neutral mediator can often suggest a compromise that is agreeable to all parties in a dispute. In accordance with the uniform complaint procedures, whenever all parties to a complaint agree to try resolving the problem through mediation, the Superintendent or designee shall initiate that process. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the results are consistent with state and federal laws and regulations.

***Note: The following paragraph is mandated pursuant to 5 CCR 4621. Appropriate disclosure will vary in each case depending on the facts and circumstances. ***

In investigating complaints, the confidentiality of the parties involved and the integrity of the process shall be protected. As appropriate for any complaint alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the Superintendent or designee may keep the identity of a complainant confidential to the extent that the investigation of the complaint is not obstructed.

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

***Note: Education Code 35186 requires the district to use uniform complaint procedures, with modifications, to investigate and resolve complaints related to items #1-4 below (i.e., "Williams complaints"). Because Education Code 35186 sets forth different timelines for investigation and resolution of these kinds of complaints than the timelines specified in law for other uniform complaints, the CDE has created a separate uniform complaint process for the Williams complaints. See AR 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures for the separate procedure. ***

The district's Williams uniform complaint procedures, AR 1312.4, shall be used to investigate and resolve any complaint related to the following:

1. Sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials
2. Emergency or urgent facilities conditions that pose a threat to the health or safety of students or staff

3. Teacher vacancies and misassignments

***Note: Districts that do not receive funding for California High School Exit Examination intensive instruction and services pursuant to Education Code 37254 should delete item #4 below. ***

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)

***Note: 5 CCR 4611 details complaint issues that are not subject to the uniform complaint procedures. Such issues include, but are not limited to, allegations of child abuse, health and safety complaints regarding a child development program, allegations of fraud, and employment discrimination complaints. For procedures related to complaints of discrimination in employment, see AR 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment. ***

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination
8200-8498 Child care and development programs
8500-8538 Adult basic education
18100-18203 School libraries
32289 School safety plan, uniform complaint procedures
35186 Williams uniform complaint procedures
37254 Intensive instruction and services for students who have not passed exit exam
41500-41513 Categorical education block grants
48985 Notices in language other than English
49010-49013 Student fees
49060-49079 Student records
49490-49590 Child nutrition programs
52160-52178 Bilingual education programs
52300-52490 Career technical education
52500-52616.24 Adult schools
52800-52870 School-based program coordination
54000-54028 Economic impact aid programs
54100-54145 Miller-Unruh Basic Reading Act
54400-54425 Compensatory education programs
54440-54445 Migrant education
54460-54529 Compensatory education programs
56000-56867 Special education programs
59000-59300 Special schools and centers
64000-64001 Consolidated application process

GOVERNMENT CODE

11135 Nondiscrimination in programs or activities funded by state
12900-12996 Fair Employment and Housing Act

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Deleted: 4. . Deficiency in the district's provision of instruction and/or services to any student who, by the completion of grade 12, has not passed one or both parts of the high school exit examination

PENAL CODE

422.55 Hate crime; definition

422.6 Interference with constitutional right or privilege

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

3080 Application of section

4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures

4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6301-6577 Title I basic programs

6601-6777 Title II preparing and recruiting high quality teachers and principals

6801-6871 Title III language instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students

7101-7184 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

7201-7283g Title V promoting informed parental choice and innovative programs

7301-7372 Title V rural and low-income school programs

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

(1/06 3/12) 1/13

First reading 05/14/14

Approved 05/14/14