

Public Complaints

The Board takes the concerns of the public seriously. The Board is committed to providing a fair and effective complaint process in order to seek resolution whenever possible, continuously improve the district's performance, and provide open channels of communication. This policy and the accompanying regulation establish the process for addressing complaints.

Steps for complaint resolution

Whenever possible, the Board supports resolution of complaints with the person most directly involved in the concern. The Board also recognizes that sometimes complaints cannot be satisfactorily resolved at this level, and may require the involvement of supervisors, administrators, and, on occasion, the Board itself.

The steps for resolving complaints are as follows:

1. Complainant should seek to resolve the concern with the teacher or employee directly involved in the situation.
2. If the complaint is not resolved at Step 1, the complainant may appeal to the principal or supervisor of the staff person involved in the situation.
3. If the complaint is not resolved at Step 2, the complainant may appeal to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. In general, the decision of the superintendent shall be final.
4. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the superintendent or designee, the complainant may file an appeal to the Board. The Board will consider appeals pursuant to the process described in KL-AR.

A complaint against a principal shall start at Step 3 and be filed with the superintendent.

A complaint against the superintendent shall start at Step 4 and be filed with the Board chair.

A complaint against a Board member shall start at Step 4 and be filed with the Board chair on behalf of the Board. A complaint against the Board chair shall start shall be filed with the Board vice chair on behalf of the Board.

Specific timelines and requirements for each step are set out in KL-AR, Complaint Process.

Persons eligible to file complaints

Complaints may be filed by a person who resides in the district, any parent or guardian of a student who attends school in the district, or a student.

Timeline for filing complaints

A complainant must file a complaint within the later of either time limit set below, in accordance with state law:

1. Within two years after the alleged violation or unlawful incident occurred or the complainant discovered the alleged violation or unlawful incident. For incidents that are continuing in nature, the time limitation must run from the date of the most recent incident; or
2. Within one year after the affected student has graduated from, moved away from or otherwise left the district.

Additional provisions

The superintendent will administer the complaint process set forth in KL-AR Complaint Procedure, unless the complaint is against a Board member, in which case the procedure described in KL-AR shall be administered by the Board. All complainants must follow the complaint procedure in KL and KL-AR.

If there are concerns about conflicts of interest in the investigation or decision-making process of addressing complaints, those concerns should be brought to the attention of the superintendent, the superintendent's designee, and/or the Board chair for evaluation and resolution. The superintendent or Board chair may determine that it is appropriate to engage a third party to assist regarding the conflict of interest.

If a complaint is made directly to the Board or to an individual Board member, the complainant will be referred to the process above. A Board member shall not attempt to consider such complaints in any official capacity acting as an individual Board member.

Retaliation against any person who files a complaint or participates in the complaint process is strictly forbidden. Concerns about retaliation should be brought promptly to the attention of the appropriate party as outlined in KL-AR Complaint Procedure.

If any complaint alleges a violation of Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 581, Division 22 (Division 22 Standards), Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 339.285 - 339.303 or OAR 581-021-0550 - 581-021-0570 (Restraint and Seclusion), or ORS 659.852 (Retaliation), and the complaint is not resolved through the complaint process, the complainant, if a student, a parent or guardian of a student attending a school in the district or a person who resides in the district, may appeal¹ the district's final decision to the Oregon Department of Education under OARs 581-002-0001 - 581-002-0023 (See KL-AR(2) - Appeal to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction).

¹ An appeal must meet the criteria found in OAR 581-002-0005(1)(a).

Charter Schools of which the District Board is a Sponsor

The district Board, through its charter agreement with Sand Ridge Charter School, will not review an appeal of a decision reached by the Board of the Sand Ridge Charter School on a complaint alleging a violation of ORS 339.285 - 339.303 or OAR 581-021-0550 - 581-021-0570 (Restraint or Seclusion), ORS 659.852 (Retaliation), or applicable OAR Chapter 581, Division 22 (Division 22 Standards), for which the district Board has jurisdiction, and recognizes a decision reached by the Board of Sand Ridge Charter School as the district Board's final decision. A final decision reached by this district Board may be appealed to the Oregon Department of Education under OAR 581-002-0001 - 581-002-0023.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 192.610](#)

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 659.852](#)

[OAR 581-022-2370](#)

[OAR 581-002-0001 – 002-0005](#)

Anderson v. Central Point Sch. Dist., 746 F.2d (9th Cir. 1984).

Connick v. Myers, 461 U.S. 138 (1983).