Grievances and Complaints

- 1. The Board and administration welcome notice and correction of any person violating district policy, state or federal law.
- 2. This procedure shall be followed as an orderly method of resolving or responding to concerns at the lowest possible administrative level in a clear and timely manner.
- 3. No person shall be retaliated against in any manner for complaining by using this process.
- 4. Any employee of the district ("complainant") may communicate a grievance, complaint, problem, or concern ("complaint").
 - a. A complainant may choose to be represented by another person at any level of this procedure.
 - b. A complainant may not be represented by a member of the complainant's immediate family.
- 5. A complainant may communicate a complaint to an immediate supervisor, a teacher, a principal, or any other district employee with authority to resolve the complaint; but no complainant may interfere with school operations or visit a classroom to express a complaint without permission.
- 6. No complainant has to complain to the person they are complaining about first
- 7. A complaint may be communicated and resolved informally—that is, orally or not in writing. However, if a complainant is not satisfied with the informal resolution of a complaint, the complainant must communicate the complaint again in writing and wait for a written response before appealing.
- 8. Any employee receiving a written complaint shall investigate and give the complainant a written report of investigation and proposed resolution or other appropriate response as soon as practicable.
- 9. Employees may have a witness or representative of the employee's choice present during any disciplinary or grievance meeting; however, any such witness or representative does not have the right to be heard.
- 10. Any employee receiving a complaint of sexual or racial harassment or criminal activity shall give the Superintendent a copy of the complaint immediately.
- 11. If the employee receiving a written complaint has not responded within 5 working days or if a complainant is not satisfied with the employee's response to a written complaint, the complainant may appeal in writing to the employee's supervisor or principal.

Authority: Arkansas Code Section 6-17-208,210

Adopted May 8, 2006

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- 12. Any supervisor or principal receiving a written appeal shall investigate and give the complainant a written report of investigation and proposed resolution or other appropriate response within 5 working days or as soon as practicable; otherwise, the supervisor shall give the complainant a status report and estimated completion date within those 5 days.
- 13. If the supervisor or principal receiving a written appeal has not responded within 5 working days or if a complainant is not satisfied with the response to an appeal, the complainant may appeal in writing to the Superintendent.
- 14. The Superintendent shall give the complainant a written report of investigation and proposed resolution or other appropriate response within 5 working days.
- 15. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Superintendent's response, the complainant may appeal and have a hearing during the next regularly scheduled board meeting.
 - a. Any such hearing may be open or closed to the public at the discretion of the complainant.
 - b. If the hearing is open, the parent or guardian of any student under the age of 18 who gives testimony may elect to have the student's testimony given in a closed session.
 - c. All parties to the complaint may present and question witnesses.
- 16. The school board shall respond to any written appeal in writing.