

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

Any complaint regarding the Superintendent shall be initially filed in writing with the Board. The Board shall consult with legal counsel or appoint an appropriate agent to conduct the investigation.

The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether a complaint against any other employee should be considered a complaint against the district and/or an individual employee, and whether it should be resolved by the district's process for complaints concerning personnel and/or other district procedures. Any complaint of child abuse or neglect alleged against a district employee shall be reported to the appropriate local agencies in accordance with law and BP 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting. Any complaint alleging that an employee engaged in unlawful discrimination (such as discriminatory harassment, intimidation, or bullying) in district programs and activities shall be filed in accordance with BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. Any complaint by an employee, job applicant, volunteer, intern, or independent contractor alleging unlawful discrimination or harassment by an employee shall be filed in accordance with AR 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment.

Any complaint subject to this policy and the accompanying administrative regulation shall be investigated by the principal, the employee's immediate supervisor, the Superintendent or designee, legal counsel, agent of the Board, and/or other appropriate person who is not the subject of the complaint or subordinate to the employee charged in the complaint. The complainant and the employee shall have an opportunity to present information relevant to the complaint.

A complaint that is filed anonymously may be investigated by the Superintendent or designee depending on the specificity and reliability of the information.

If a complainant requests confidentiality, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the complainant that the request may limit the district's ability to investigate the employee's conduct or take other necessary action. However, the Superintendent or designee shall take all reasonable steps to investigate and resolve the complaint without divulging the complainant's identity.

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)

The Board prohibits retaliation against complainants.

Appeals

If either the complainant or the employee submits an appeal of the Superintendent's decision to the Board, the Board shall determine whether to uphold the Superintendent's decision without hearing the complaint, appoint an appeals committee to advise the Board, or hear the appeal itself.

If the Board decides to hear the complaint, the matter shall be addressed in closed session in accordance with Government Code 54957 unless the employee requests that it be heard in open session. The Board shall review the original complaint and additional information provided by the

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Superintendent or designee regarding the steps taken to resolve the issue.

The Board's decision shall be final.

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

33308.1 *Guidelines on procedure for filing child abuse complaints*

35146 *Closed sessions*

44031 *Personnel file contents and inspection*

44811 *Disruption of public school activities*

44932-44949 *Resignation, dismissal and leaves of absence (rights of employee; procedures to follow)*

48987 *Child abuse guidelines*

GOVERNMENT CODE

54957 *Closed session; complaints re employees*

54957.6 *Closed session; salaries or fringe benefits*

PENAL CODE

273 *Cruelty or unjustifiable punishment of child*

11164-11174.3 *Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act*

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

300 *Minors subject to jurisdiction of juvenile court*

*Management Resources:*CDE LEGAL ADVISORIES

0910.93 *Guidelines for parents to report suspected child abuse by school district employees or other persons against a pupil at school site (LO:4-93)*

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Every effort should be made to resolve complaints regarding district employees at the earliest possible stage. Any person who complains about a district employee shall be encouraged to resolve the matter informally through direct communication with the employee whenever possible.

If a complainant is unable or unwilling to resolve the complaint directly with the employee, the complainant may submit a written complaint to the principal or other immediate supervisor of the employee. Complaints related to a principal or district administrator shall be initially filed in writing with the Superintendent or designee. If the complainant is unable to prepare the complaint in writing, administrative staff shall provide assistance in the preparation of the complaint.

A written complaint shall include the full name of the employee involved, a brief but specific summary of the complaint and the facts surrounding it, and a description of any prior attempt to discuss the complaint with the employee and the failure to resolve the matter.

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

To promote prompt and fair and resolution of the complaint, the following procedures shall govern the resolution of complaints against district employees:

1. When a written complaint is received, the employee who is the subject of the complaint shall be notified within five days or in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement.
2. The principal or other immediate supervisor of the employee shall investigate and attempt to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the parties involved within 30 days. A complaint against a school or district administrator shall be investigated by the Superintendent or designee. The investigation may include interviews of the employee, complainant, or witnesses as necessary and/or a review any documentation relevant to the complaint.
3. Both the complainant and employee shall be notified in writing of the final decision regarding the resolution of the complaint.
4. Either the complainant or the employee against whom the complaint was made may appeal the decision. A decision by the principal or immediate supervisor may be appealed to the Superintendent or designee, who shall attempt to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the parties involved within 30 days. Either the complainant or the employee may appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Governing Board.
5. If the decision is appealed to the Board, the Superintendent or designee shall submit to the Board the following information:

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- a. The full name of each employee involved
- b. A brief but specific summary of the complaint and the facts surrounding it, sufficient to inform the Board and the parties as to the precise nature of the complaint and to allow the parties to prepare a response
- c. A copy of the signed original complaint
- d. A summary of the action taken by the Superintendent or designee and the reasons that the problem has not been resolved

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COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Governing Board uses a comprehensive process to adopt district instructional materials that is based on selection criteria established by law and Board policy and includes opportunities for the involvement of district staff, parents/guardians, and community members, and, as appropriate, students. Complaints concerning the content or use of instructional materials, including textbooks, supplementary instructional materials, library materials, or other instructional materials and equipment, shall be properly and fairly considered using established complaint procedures.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss any concerns regarding instructional materials with their child's teacher and/or the school principal. If the situation remains unresolved, a complaint may be filed using the process specified in the accompanying administrative regulation and exhibit.

The district shall accept complaints concerning instructional materials only from staff, district residents, or the parents/guardians of children enrolled in a district school. (Education Code 35160)

However, a complaint related to the use or prohibited use of any existing textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library that alleges unlawful discrimination based on a violation of Education Code 243 shall be filed, investigated, and resolved in accordance with Board Policy 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

When deliberating upon challenged materials, the Superintendent, or any designee or committee established by the Superintendent to review the materials, shall consider the degree to which the materials aligned with the criteria for instructional materials as specified in law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. In addition, such deliberations may consider the educational philosophy and vision of the district; the educational suitability of the materials including the manner in which the materials support the curriculum and appropriateness for the student's age; the professional opinions of teachers of the subject and of other competent authorities and/or experts; reviews of the materials by reputable bodies; the stated objectives in using the materials; community standards; the allegations in the complaint, including the extent to which the objections are based on the dislike of ideas contained in the materials; and the impact that keeping or removing the materials would have on student well-being.

The Superintendent, or any designee or committee established by the Superintendent to review the materials, shall not prohibit the continued use of an appropriately adopted textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library on the basis that it contains inclusive and/or diverse perspectives, as specified in Education Code 243.

If the complainant finds the Superintendent's or review committee's decision unsatisfactory, the complainant may appeal the decision to the Board.

Any challenged instructional material that is reviewed by the district shall not be subject to further reconsideration for 12 months, unless required by law.

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COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Complaints related to the sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials shall be resolved as specified in Administrative Regulation 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures.

*Legal Reference:***EDUCATION CODE**

- 18111 Exclusion of books by governing board*
- 35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules*
- 60000 Power of governing board to select instructional materials*
- 60040-60047 Content requirements for instructional materials*
- 60200-60206 Elementary school material - selection and adoption*
- 60400 Secondary school textbooks - selection and adoption*

*Management Resources:***CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES**

- 1002.90 Selection of instructional materials, CIL: 90/91-02*

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Step 1: Informal Complaint

If a staff member, district resident, or parent/guardian of a student enrolled in a district school has a complaint regarding the content or use of any specific instructional material, such individual shall informally discuss the material in question with the principal. (Education Code 35160)

Step 2: Formal Complaint

If the complainant is not satisfied with the principal's initial response, the complainant shall present a written complaint to the principal. Complaints regarding printed material shall name the author, title, and publisher and shall identify the objection by page and item numbers. In the case of nonprinted material, written information specifying the precise nature of the objection and location of such material shall be given. In order for the district to reply appropriately, complainants shall sign all complaints and provide identifying information. Anonymous complaints will not be accepted.

Upon receiving a complaint, the principal shall provide the complainant with a written acknowledgement of its receipt and respond to any procedural questions the complainant may have. The principal shall then notify the Superintendent or designee, the teacher(s), and other staff as appropriate.

During the investigation of the complaint, the challenged material may remain in use until a final decision has been reached.

Step 3: Review Committee

The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether to convene a review committee to review the complaint.

If the Superintendent or designee determines that a review committee is necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall appoint a committee composed of administrators and staff members selected from relevant instructional and administrative areas. The Superintendent or designee may also appoint parents/guardians, students, and community members, as appropriate, to serve on the committee.

The Superintendent or designee may provide training to the review committee to ensure that the review committee is informed regarding its responsibilities, the criteria to follow when reviewing instructional materials, and applicable laws, Board policy(ies), and administrative regulation(s).

Within 30 days of being convened, the review committee shall summarize its findings in a written report. The Superintendent or designee shall notify the complainant in writing of the committee's decision within 15 days of receiving the committee's report.

Step 4: Superintendent Determination

If the Superintendent or designee determines that a review committee is not necessary, the
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Superintendent or designee shall, in a timely manner, issue a decision regarding the complaint.

Step 5: Appeal to the Governing Board

If the complainant remains unsatisfied, the complainant may appeal the Superintendent's or review committee's decision to the Board. The Board's decision shall be final.

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**Community Relations
COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

AR 1312.2

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**Community Relations
COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

E 1312.2

S A M P L E

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF EXISTING
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

This form is only for use by district employees, district residents, or parents/guardians of children enrolled in a district school to challenge the content or use of any existing textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or other curriculum for classroom instruction, or any book or other resource in a school library.

Date: _____

Name of person filing
complaint: _____

Anonymous complaints will not be accepted.

Group represented (if
any): _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Address: _____

Instructional Material Being Challenged:

Title: _____

Author: _____

Publisher: _____

Date of Edition: _____

Name of school/classroom instructional material was
used: _____

1. Please specifically state the nature of your concern or objection and identify your objection by page, website, webpage and/or link, recording or digital sequence, video frame, or words, as appropriate. You may use additional pages if necessary.

Exhibit

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PALERMO UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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**Community Relations
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E 1312.2

2. Was the instructional material of concern read/heard/viewed in isolation or was the entire selection read/heard/viewed? If the entire selection was not read/heard/viewed, what is your estimate regarding the percentage of the amount read/heard/viewed?

3. What is your concern regarding the consequence if a student reads/hears/views the instructional material? In your assessment, is the instructional material appropriate for the age of the students being taught?

4. What would you like the school to do about the instructional material?

Signature of complainant

For District Use:

Request received by: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

Action taken: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit

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NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS, STUDENTS, AND TEACHERS: PRESCHOOL COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Parents/Guardians, Students, and Teachers:

Pursuant to Education Code 8212, you are hereby notified that any California State Preschool Program that is exempt from licensure must have:

1. Outdoor shade that is safe and in good repair
2. Drinking water that is accessible and readily available throughout the day
3. Safe and sanitary restroom facilities with one toilet and handwashing fixture for every 15 children
4. Restroom facilities that are available only for preschoolers and kindergartners
5. Visual supervision of children at all times
6. Indoor and outdoor space that is properly contained or fenced and provides sufficient space for the number of children using the space at any given time
7. Playground equipment that is safe, in good repair, and age appropriate

If you choose to file a complaint alleging that any of the above conditions is not being met, your complaint will be addressed through the district's uniform complaint procedures as required by law. A complaint form may be obtained at the school or district office, or downloaded from the school or district web site. You may also download a copy of the California Department of Education complaint form when available from the following web site: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cp/uc>. However, a complaint need not be filed using either the district's complaint form or the complaint form from the California Department of Education.

Exhibit

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**Community Relations
UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

E 1312.3a

Exhibit **PALERMO UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
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