Complaint Procedure – Student/Third Party

Step 1 – Reporting

A student or third party who believes s/he has been subject to conduct by any student, employee or third party that constitutes a violation of this policy, or the parent/guardian of a student, is encouraged to immediately report the incident to the building principal or designee, or to any other member of the school staff, including teachers, guidance counselors, coaches and administrators.

A school employee who witnesses, suspects or is notified that a student has been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy shall immediately report the incident to the building principal or designee.

If the building principal is the subject of a complaint, the student, parent/guardian, third party or employee shall report the incident directly to the Compliance Officer.

The complainant or reporting employee is encouraged to use the report form available from the building principal, but oral complaints shall be acceptable.

Step 2 – Investigation

Upon receiving a complaint of discrimination, the building principal or designee shall investigate the complaint, unless the building principal or designee is the subject of the complaint or is unable to conduct the investigation.

The building principal or designee shall conduct an adequate, reliable and impartial investigation and shall provide the opportunity for each party to present witnesses and other evidence.

The investigation may consist of individual interviews with the complainant, the accused, and others with knowledge relative to the incident. The investigator may also evaluate any other information and materials relevant to the investigation.

The investigator shall attempt to secure statements from all participants in and witnesses to the complaint.

The obligation to conduct this investigation shall not be negated by the fact that a criminal investigation of the incident is pending or has been concluded. The investigator should coordinate with any other ongoing school or criminal investigation of the incident.
All investigations shall be completed by the assigned investigator within fourteen (14) days from the filing date of the complaint. Extenuating circumstances for not being able to comply with the deadline must be approved by the Compliance Officer. The extension must be a specified period of time not exceeding fourteen (14) days, and must be communicated to the complainant.

Step 3 – Investigative Report

The building principal or designee shall prepare and submit a written report to the Compliance Officer, which shall include a summary of the investigation, a determination of whether the complaint has been substantiated as factual and whether it is a violation of this policy, the basis for the determination, and a recommended disposition of the complaint.

The complainant and the accused shall be provided written notice of the outcome of the investigation, including the recommended disposition. The accused shall not be notified of the individual remedies offered or provided to the complainant.[17]

Step 4 – District Action

If the investigation results in a finding that the complaint is factual and constitutes a violation of this policy, the district shall take prompt, corrective action to ensure that such conduct ceases. The district shall take steps to prevent the recurrence of prohibited conduct and to correct the discriminatory effect on the complainant and others, if appropriate. District staff shall document the corrective action taken and, where not prohibited by law, inform the complainant.[17]

Disciplinary actions shall be consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, SRC policies and administrative procedures, applicable collective bargaining agreements, and state and federal laws, and may include educational activities and/or counseling services.

If it is concluded that a student has knowingly made a false complaint under this policy, such student shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Appeal Procedure

1. If the complainant or the accused is not satisfied with a finding of no violation of the policy or with the recommended corrective action, s/he may submit a written appeal to the Compliance Officer within fifteen (15) days.

2. The Compliance Officer shall review the investigation and the investigative report and may also conduct a reasonable investigation.

3. The Compliance Officer shall prepare a written response to the appeal within fifteen (15) days. Copies of the response shall be provided to the complainant, the accused and the building principal who conducted the initial investigation.

Legal References:
17. 20 U.S.C. 1232g