

Community Relations

Public Complaints

Board of Education members shall refer persons making complaints about the schools to the most immediate level at which the problem can be resolved. Complainants shall be informed that if a problem is not resolved at this level, they are to follow the prescribed lines of organization to the Superintendent of Schools. Board of Education members shall inform the Superintendent of all such complaints.

Most complaints, e.g., those pertaining to discipline, instructional technique, grade placement, teacher assignment, scheduling, grading, etc., are handled by means of the prescribed means of organization as follows:

1. Faculty/Staff Member
2. Department Chairperson/Department Coordinator
3. Principal
4. Superintendent

Challenges to Curriculum or Instructional Materials

When the public files a complaint about the curriculum or instructional materials, complainants are to follow the prescribed lines of organization. If the complaint is not resolved at the level of the Superintendent, the complainant may file a written complaint with the Chairman of the Board of Education. The Chairman shall refer the written complaint to the Curriculum Committee to evaluate the curriculum or instructional material. The committee shall issue its finding to the complainant.

A parent or legal guardian has the right to request that his/her child not read, view or hear any curriculum provided a written request is made to the appropriate building principal. No parent or legal guardian has a right to deny access to instructional materials for students other than his/her own children.

Board of Education Hearings

There are four circumstances involving students when the Board of Education conducts a hearing:

1. When residency is challenged by the district
2. Transportation disputes not resolved by the Superintendent
3. Expulsion
4. When the district does not allow a student to enroll (School accommodations)

(cf. 4118.21 - Academic Freedom)

(cf. 5145 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6144 - Controversial Issues)

(cf. 6161 - Equipment, Books, Materials: Provisions/Selection)

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Legal Reference: *Keyishian v. Board of Regents* 385 U.S. 589 603 (1967)

President's Council, District 25 v. Community School Board No. 25 457 P. 2d 289 (1972). cert denied 409 U.S. 998 (1976)

Minarcini v. Strongville City School District, 541 P. 2d 577 (Cir. 1976).

Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico 457 U.S. 853 (1982).

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/9/81).

Connecticut General Statutes

10-238 Petition for hearing by board of education.