

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES OF THE
MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 8.27

STUDENT COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

(1) POLICY

- a. The Board values feedback from its students and believes students should be able to discuss problems and express concerns to school administrators free from duress or retaliation. The Board is committed to providing students with an avenue to express concerns and to work with their school's officials toward amical resolutions. The Board believes engaging in this process can also be an inherently valuable educational experience for students and can help prepare students to address issues in a professional productive manner after they graduate.
- b. This policy is intended as a mechanism for students to have concerns and complaints addressed. It is not intended to replace or usurp any other processes by which concerns or complaints may be expressed.

(1)(2) — IMPLEMENTATION

(a) Decisions made by school personnel, such as aides, teachers, or assistant principals, which students believe are unfair or in violation of pertinent policies of the Board or individual school rules may be appealed to the school principal or designated representative. To appeal, students shall contact the principal's office in their schools within two school days and provide their names, the issues, and the reasons for their appeal on a printed form available at the office. The appeal shall ~~usually~~ be decided confidentially and promptly, ~~preferably~~ within two school days.

(~~2~~b) The Board believes that it is especially important for any appeal involving limitation on freedom of speech — such as restricting the contents of a school-sponsored publication or prohibiting distribution or posting of a non-school-sponsored publication — to be decided as quickly as possible. Therefore, individual school decisions involving limitation of freedom of speech may be appealed to the ~~school administrative specialist~~ Regional Superintendent, Office of School Administration ~~of the Department of Leadership Services~~ after a decision is made by the principal.

(~~c~~3) If the principal does not make a decision within two school days following the date of complaint, students or parents may appeal at that time by contacting the ~~Director~~ Regional Superintendent, Office of School Administration ~~Department of Leadership Services~~. The information provided should include the student's name, the school, and a description of the problem.

(~~d~~4) An investigation and decision shall be made within two school days and communicated to the school principal and student by telephone. A written copy of the decision should also be sent to the student and principal.

(3) MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This policy shall be reviewed for coherence and appropriateness to the present mission of the district every five years, consistent with Board Governance Policy.

History: Adopted 6-30-75; revised 1984; reaffirmed 3-29-95

Previous Coding: Admin. Policy JFH, prior to May 1995; Admin. Policy 10.27, May 1995-August 1996

Cross Ref.: Admin. Policy 1.04 Nondiscrimination
 6.03 Sexual Harassment
 7.20 Student Publications

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