

## **Students**

### **Student Complaints, Grievance and Petitions**

#### **Grievances**

The prompt, informal, and confidential adjustment and settlement of student grievances is encouraged and, perhaps, can be resolved within the respective school context. The following procedures to accomplish these purposes is hereby established.

#### **Definition**

A grievance shall mean a complaint by a student that he/she has been treated unfairly or inequitably by any teacher or administrator in the interpretation or application of the provisions of the Board's statement on Student Rights and responsibilities.

#### **Procedure**

Any student may bring a grievance before a student grievance committee using the following procedures:

- Step 1      A student shall first discuss the problem with the school official serving as the teacher's immediate superior (i.e. department head, housemaster, assistant principal, or principal).
- Step 2      If the school principal is the subject of the complaint, or if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved within a week at the school level, the student may appeal, in writing, to the appropriate director for a hearing, setting forth specifically the basis of the grievance.
- Step 3      The district supervisor shall convene a hearing within a reasonable time and shall decide the issue within a reasonable time of such meeting.

#### **Petitions**

Students may collect signatures on any petition they support provided they follow the school's established guidelines in not interfering with the orderly process of the school day. When such petitions relate to school matters, they may not be libelous or obscene. An acceptable petition may express legitimate criticism of school activity or governance, or request redress of actual student grievances. Student have a right to present such petitions to school officials.

**Legal Reference:** U.S.O.E. Title IX (Final Title IX Regulation Implementing Education Amendments of 1972 Prohibiting Sex Discrimination in Education, eff. date 7/21/75 20 U.S.C. @ 1681 et seq.)

**Policy adopted:** August 14, 1995

**NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
New Haven, Connecticut