

Sacramento City USD

Administrative Regulation

Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures

AR 1312.4

Community Relations

Types of Williams Complaints

The district shall use the following procedures to investigate and resolve complaints when the complainant alleges that any of the following has occurred: (Education Code 35186)

1. Instructional materials
 - a. A pupil, including an English learner, does not have standards-aligned textbooks or instructional materials or state- or district-adopted textbooks or other required instructional materials to use in class.
 - b. A pupil does not have access to instructional materials to use at home or after school in order to complete required homework assignments.
 - c. Textbooks or instructional materials are in poor or unusable condition, have missing pages, or are unreadable due to damage.

(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

2. Teacher vacancy or misassignment

- a. A semester begins and a certificated teacher is not assigned to teach the class.

Vacancy means a position to which a single designated certificated employee has not been assigned at the beginning of the year for an entire year or, if the position is for a one-semester course, a position to which a single designated certificated employee has not been assigned at the beginning of a semester for an entire semester. (Education Code 33126)

- b. A teacher who lacks credentials or training to teach English learners is assigned to teach a class with more than 20 percent English learner pupils in the class.

(cf. 4112.22 - Staff Teaching Students of Limited English Proficiency)

- c. A teacher is assigned to teach a class for which the teacher lacks subject matter competency.

Misassignment means the placement of a certificated employee in a teaching or services

position for which the employee does not hold a legally recognized certificate or credential or the placement of a certificated employee in a teaching or services position that the employee is not otherwise authorized by statute to hold. (Education Code 35186)

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

(cf. 4113 - Assignment)

3. Facilities

A condition poses an emergency or urgent threat to the health or safety of pupils or staff.

Emergency or urgent threat means structures or systems that are in a condition that poses a threat to the health and safety of pupils or staff while at school, including but not limited to gas leaks; nonfunctioning heating, ventilation, fire sprinklers, or air-conditioning systems; electrical power failure; major sewer line stoppage; major pest or vermin infestation; broken windows or exterior doors or gates that will not lock and that pose a security risk; abatement of hazardous materials previously undiscovered that pose an immediate threat to pupils or staff; or structural damage creating a hazardous or uninhabitable condition. (Education Code 17592.72 paragraph (1) of subdivision (c))

Filing of Complaint

A complaint alleging any condition(s) specified above shall be filed with the principal of the school or his or her designee, in which the complaint arises. The principal or designee shall forward a complaint about problems beyond his/her authority to the Superintendent or designee within 10 working days. (Education Code 35186)

The school shall have a complaint form available for such Williams Complaints. (Education Code 35186(a)(1), Title 5 California Code of Regulations (T5CCR) 4680):

The complainant need not use the Williams Complaint form to file a complaint.

The Williams Complaint form shall identify the place for filing the complaint.

The Williams Complaint form will include a space to indicate whether a response is requested.

The principal or designee shall make all reasonable efforts to investigate any problem within his/her authority. He/she shall remedy a valid complaint within a reasonable time period not to exceed 30 working days from the date the complaint was received. (Education Code 35186)

The Williams complaints may be filed anonymously. If the complainant has indicated on the complaint form that he/she would like a response to his/her complaint, the principal or designee shall report the resolution of the complaint to him/her within 45 working days of the initial filing of the complaint. At the same time, the principal or designee shall report the same information to the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 35186)

Upon receipt of a written complaint from an individual, public agency or organization, Williams's complaint procedures shall be initiated. The Superintendent or designee shall distribute full information about these procedures.

Refusal by the complainant to provide the investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, or to otherwise fail or refuse to cooperate in the investigation or engage in any other obstructions of the investigation, may result in the dismissal of the complaint because of lack of evidence to support the allegations. (T5CCR 4631)

Refusal by the District to provide the investigator with access to records and/or other information related to the allegation in the complaint, or to otherwise fail to refuse or cooperate in the investigation or engage in any other obstruction of the investigation, may result in a finding based on evidence collected that a violation has occurred and may result in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant. (T5CCR 4631)

The Board recognizes that a neutral mediator can often suggest a compromise that is agreeable to all parties in a dispute. In accordance with Williams's complaint procedures, whenever all parties to a complaint agree to try resolving their problem through mediation, the Superintendent or designee shall initiate mediation. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that mediation results are consistent with state and federal laws and regulations.

If a complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint, he/she may describe the complaint to the Governing Board at a regularly scheduled hearing. (Education Code 35186)

For complaints concerning a facility condition that poses an emergency or urgent threat to the health or safety of pupils or staff as described in item #3 above, a complainant who is not satisfied with the resolution proffered by the principal or Superintendent or designee may file an appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction within 15 days of receiving the report. (T5CCR 4687)

Reports

The Superintendent or designee shall report summarized data on the nature and resolution of all complaints to the Board and the County Superintendent of Schools on a quarterly basis. The report shall include the number of complaints by general subject area with the number of resolved and unresolved complaints. These summaries shall be publicly reported on a quarterly basis at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. (Education Code 35186, T5CCR 4686)

If a response is requested, the response shall be made to the mailing address of the complainant indicated on the complaint. (Education Code 35186(a)(1), T5CCR 4680)

If Section 48985 of the Education Code is applicable, the response, if requested, and report shall be written in English and the primary language in which the complaint was filed. (Education Code 5186(a)(1))

Complaints and written responses shall be public records. (Education Code 35186)

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

The complainant shall comply with the appeal requirements of Title 5 California Code of Regulations 4632 and 4687.

Forms and Notices

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's complaint form contains a space to indicate whether the complainant desires a response to his/her complaint and specifies the location for filing a complaint. A complainant may add as much text to explain the complaint as he/she wishes. (Education Code 35186)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a notice is posted in each classroom in each school containing the components specified in Education Code 35186.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1240 County superintendent of schools, duties

17592.72 Urgent or emergency repairs, School Facility Emergency Repair Account

33126 School Accountability Report Card

35186 Alternative uniform complaint procedure

60119 Hearing on sufficiency of instructional materials

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4671 Uniform complaint procedures

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Williams case: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/ce/wc/index.asp>

Regulation SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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