

# Lincoln County School District

Code: AC-AR (1)

Adopted: 7/09/02

Revised/Readopted: 6/14/16 (Effective 7/01/16);

5/08/18; 11/12/19; 2/11/20, 9/12/23

Orig. Code(s): AC-AR

## Discrimination Complaint Procedure

Complaints regarding discrimination or harassment, on any basis protected by law, shall be processed in accordance with the following procedures:

Step 1: {<sup>1</sup>}Complaints may be oral or in writing and must be filed with the principal or administrator. Any staff member that receives an oral or written complaint shall report the complaint to the principal or administrator.

The principal or administrator shall investigate and determine the action to be taken, if any, and reply in writing, to the complainant within 10 school days of receipt of the complaint.

Step 2: If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision of the principal or administrator, the complainant may submit a written appeal to the superintendent or designee within five school days after receipt of the principal's or administrator's response to the complaint.

The superintendent or designee shall review the principal's or administrator's decision within five school days and may meet with all parties involved. The superintendent or designee will review the merits of the complaint and the principal's or administrator's decision. The superintendent or designee will respond in writing to the complainant within 10 school days.

Step 3: If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the superintendent or designee, a written appeal may be filed with the Board within five school days of receipt of the superintendent's or designee's response to Step 2. The Board may decide to hear or deny the request for appeal at a Board meeting. If the Board decides to hear the appeal, the Board may meet with the concerned parties and their representative at the next regular Board meeting. The Board's decision will be final and will address each allegation in the complaint and contain reasons for the Board's decision. A copy of the Board's final decision shall be sent to the complainant in writing or electronic form within 5 days of receipt of the appeal by the Board.

If the principal or administrator is the subject of the complaint, the individual may start at Step 2 and should file a complaint with the superintendent or designee.

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<sup>1</sup> For district information. The district's timeline established by each step of the district's complaint procedure must be within 30 days of the submission of the complaint at any step, unless the district and complainant have agreed in writing to a longer time period for that step. The district's complaint procedure should not exceed a total of 90 days from the initial filing of the complaint, regardless of the number of steps involved, unless the district and the complainant have agreed in writing to a longer time period. (OAR 581-002-0005)}

If the superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the complaint may start at Step 3 and should be referred to the Board chair. The Board may refer the investigation to a third party.

Complaints against the Board as a whole or against an individual Board member, may start at Step 3 and should be submitted to the Board chair. Complaints against the Board chair may start at Step 3 and be referred directly to the Board vice chair.

The timelines established in each step of this procedure may be extended upon mutual consent of the district and the complainant in writing, but will not be longer than 30 days from the date of the submission of the complaint at any step. The overall timeline of this complaint procedure may be extended beyond 90 days from the initial filing of the complaint upon written mutual consent of the district and the complainant.

The complainant, if a person who resides in the district or a parent or guardian of a student who attends school in the district or a student, is not satisfied after exhausting local complaint procedures, the district fails to render a written decision within 30 days of submission of the complaint at any step or fails to resolve the complaint within 90 days of the initial filing of the complaint, may appeal<sup>2</sup> the district's final decision to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction under Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 581-002-0001 – 581-002-0023.

### **Charter Schools of which the District Board is a Sponsor**

The district Board will not review an appeal of a decision reached by the Board of the Charter School on a complaint alleging a violation of Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 659.850 or Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-021-0045 or 581-021-0046 (Discrimination), for which the district Board has jurisdiction, and recognizes a decision reached by the Board of the charter school as the district Board's final decision. A final decision reached by this district Board may be appealed to the Oregon Department of Education under OAR 581-002-0001 - 581-002-0023.

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<sup>2</sup> An appeal must meet the criteria found in OAR 581-002-0005(1)(a).

