



RIGHT TO AN APPEAL

There may be times when students believe they have been unfairly penalized. Most problems can be solved if students speak with the teacher or staff member who was involved. If students feel uncomfortable with this person, they may request a conference with the next level of authority. Students may also request the presence of a third party, such as a counselor, assistant principal, other staff person, translator, interpreter, or attorney. Parents also have the right to be included.

If talking things over does not solve the problem, the following steps may be taken:

1. A written statement must be presented to the principal within five (5) school days from the last notification/communication regarding the disciplinary consequence or incident. The statement must tell what happened, when it happened, who was involved, and how the parent/student would like the problem resolved. A copy of the statement should be filed and maintained as an educational record. The principal or the administrator with the most knowledge of the incident has 5 school days to respond in writing.
2. If the problem still has not been resolved within five (5) school days from receipt of the school's written response, the parent(s)/student may request in writing, an appointment with the Director/designee of the Office of Service Quality. The letter asking for the appointment must include a copy of the first written statement and the school's response, if one was received.

In the case of Charter Schools: If the problem has not been resolved within five (5) school days from receipt of the school's written response, the charter school parent(s)/student may request, in writing, a meeting with the Governing Board.

Items 3-5 below do not apply to Charter School students.

3. Upon receipt of such request, the Director/designee of the Office of Service Quality will schedule a meeting within five (5) school days with the District student and his or her parent. This meeting will include the person(s) involved in the appeal process, the principal, the District student, the parent(s) and any representative selected by the parent. Attorneys may attend as representatives of either the District parent(s)/student and/or the school. The Director/designee of the Office of Service Quality has five (5) school days after the date of the meeting to send a written response to the District parent(s)/student.
4. If the District parent(s)/students are still not satisfied, they may take the problem to the Superintendent's Office/designee following the above procedures.
5. The Superintendent/designee will schedule another meeting to attempt to resolve the matter. After the date of this meeting, the Superintendent/designee has five (5) school days to send a written response. The decision of the Superintendent/designee shall be final for the appeal of any penalty that is less than ten (10) days suspension. For suspension appeals of ten (10) days, District parent(s)/students have the right to appeal to the School Board by submitting a request to the Superintendent's Office.
6. A student shall serve his or her suspension during the pendency of any appeals. If the student is successful in his or her appeal, the student's record shall be corrected to remove all indications of the suspension and the absences shall be reflected as "excused," for the period in question. Refer to Section I, regarding make-up work.