

Grievance Procedures For Students and Parents/Guardians

Student Right:

- Students have a right to present a complaint regarding unfair treatment.

Student Responsibility:

- Students have a responsibility to learn and follow procedures for filing complaints.

Grievance procedures are used to handle serious problems when students believe there has been a violation of the Code of Student Conduct, including due process. Except in instances where there is a clearly defined procedure other than the one described here, a student grievance may be pursued in order through three levels.

Level I – Informal Discussion: The student or parent/guardian should discuss the grievance with the person responsible for what the student or parent/guardian believes to be unfair treatment under the code of Student Conduct. The discussion should occur within five (5) school days of the time of the alleged unfair treatment. No grievance will be processed until after such informal discussion.

Level II – School Principal: If the grievance has not been resolved at the informal level, the parent/guardian and/or student may submit a completed Student Grievance form to the principal within five (5) school days of the Level I discussion. The principal will have five (5) school days after receipt of the grievance in which to hold a conference and give a written decision.

Level III – Superintendent's Office: If the grievance has not been resolved at Level II, the parent/guardian and/or student may, within five (5) school days after receipt of the principal's decision, submit the Student Grievance Form to the Executive Director of Student Services who will respond in writing within ten (10) school days after receipt.

Student grievance forms are available in each school's office. The superintendent's designee for coordinating all student grievances under this code is the Executive Director of Student Services who may be reached at the Fearnside Family Services Center, 3600 NE 15 Street, Gainesville, FL 32609, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days. Telephone: 955-7671, ext. 1608.