

GOAL

The Governing Board recognizes that the district is primarily responsible for complying with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The district shall investigate complaints alleging failure to comply with such laws and/or alleging discrimination and shall seek to resolve those complaints in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures. (5 CCR 4620)

The district shall follow uniform complaint procedures when addressing complaints alleging unlawful discrimination against any protected group as identified under Education Code 200 and 220 and Government Code 11135, including actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, or mental or physical disability, or age, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in any district program or activity that receives or benefits from state financial assistance. (5 CCR 4610)

Uniform complaint procedures shall also be used when addressing complaints alleging failure to comply with state and/or federal laws in adult education programs, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, career technical and technical education and career technical and technical training programs, child care and development programs, child nutrition programs, or special education programs. (5 CCR 4610)

Complaints related to sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials, emergency or urgent facilities conditions that pose a threat to the health or safety of students or staff, and teacher vacancies and misassignments shall be investigated pursuant to the district's Williams uniform complaint procedure (AR 1312.4).

The Board encourages the early, informal resolution of complaints at the site level whenever possible. The Board acknowledges and respects every individual's right to privacy. Discrimination complaints shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process. This may include keeping the identity of the complainant confidential, as appropriate and except to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation or proceedings, as determined by the Superintendent or designee, on a case-by-case basis.

Board of Trustees

Michael Gordon
Kim White
Michelle Bebout
Jamie Hunter
Michael Flaherty

District Superintendent

Jim Shoemake

Complaint Officer

Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum & Instruction
Dustin Haley

Dissemination

This information will be disseminated annually to students, employees, parents/guardians, staff, volunteers, Advisory Committees, appropriate school officials, representatives, or other interested parties as may be applicable by the law.

RESCUE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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RUSD is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all State and Federal regulations regarding employment practices.

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Rescue Union School District



“Educating for the Future Together”

FILING A COMPLAINT AND TIMELINE

Step 1: Filing of Complaint

Any individual, public agency or organization may file a written complaint of alleged noncompliance by the district. (5 CCR 4630)

A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination shall be initiated no later than six months from the date when the alleged discrimination occurred, or six months from the date when the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination. A complaint may be filed by a person who alleges that he/she personally suffered unlawful discrimination or by a person who believes that an individual or any specific class of individuals has been subjected to unlawful discrimination. (5 CCR 4630)

The complaint shall be presented to the Superintendent or designee who shall maintain a log of complaints received, providing each with a code number and a date stamp. If a complainant is unable to put a complaint in writing due to conditions such as a disability or illiteracy, district staff shall assist him/her in the filing of the complaint. (5 CCR 4600)

Step 2: Mediation

Within three days of receiving the complaint, the Superintendent or designee may informally discuss with the complainant the possibility of using mediation. If the complainant agrees to mediation, the Superintendent or designee shall make all arrangements for this process. Before initiating the mediation of a discrimination complaint, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all parties agree to make the mediator a party to related confidential information.

If the mediation process does not resolve the problem within the parameters of law, the Superintendent or designee shall proceed with his/her investigation of the complaint. The use of mediation shall not extend the district's timelines for investigating and resolving the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to such an extension of time. (5 CCR 4631)

Step 3: Investigation of Complaint

The Superintendent or designee within 10 business days after the compliance officer receives the complaint; the compliance officer shall begin an investigation into the complaint. Within one business day of initiating the investigation, the compliance officer shall provide the complainant and/or his/her representative with the opportunity to present the information contained in the complaint to the compliance officer and shall notify the complainant and/or his/her representative of the opportunity to present the compliance officer with any

evidence, or information leading to evidence, to support the allegations in the complaint. Such evidence or information may be presented at any time during the investigation. (5 CCR 4631)

A complainant's refusal to provide the district's investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, or his/her failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation or his/her engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation may result in the dismissal of the complaint due to lack of evidence to support the allegation. Similarly, a respondent's refusal to provide the district's investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation, or engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation may result in a finding, based on evidence collected, that a violation has occurred and in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

Step 4: Report of Findings

Within 60 days of receiving the complaint, the Superintendent or designee shall prepare and send to the complainant a written report of the district's investigation and decision, as described in Step #5 below. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the Superintendent or designee's decision, he/she may, within five days, file his/her complaint in writing with the Board. The Board may consider the matter at its next regular Board meeting or at a special Board meeting convened in order to meet the 60-day time limit within which the complaint must be answered. The Board may decide not to hear the complaint, in which case the Superintendent or designee's decision shall be final.

If the Board hears the complaint, the Superintendent shall send the Board's decision to the complainant within 60 days of the district's initial receipt the complaint or within the time period that has been specified in a written agreement with the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

Step 5: Final Written Decision

The district's decision shall be in writing and sent to the complainant and respondent. (5 CCR 4631)

The district's decision shall be written in English and in the language of the complainant when feasible or required by law. The decision shall include:

1. The findings of fact based on the evidence gathered (5 CCR 4631)
2. The conclusion(s) of law (5 CCR 4631)
3. Disposition of the complaint (5 CCR 4631)
4. Rationale for such disposition (5 CCR 4631)
5. Corrective actions if any are warranted (5 CCR 4631)
6. Notice of the complainant's and respondent's right to appeal the decision within 15 days to the CDE and procedures to be

followed for initiating such an appeal (5 CCR 4631)

If an employee is disciplined as a result of the complaint, the decision shall simply state that effective action was taken and that the employee was informed of district expectations. The report shall not give any further information as to the nature of the disciplinary action.

Appeals to the California Department of Education

If dissatisfied with the district's decision, the complainant may appeal in writing to the CDE within 15 days of receiving the district's decision. When appealing to the CDE, the complainant must specify the basis for the appeal of the decision and whether the facts are incorrect and/or the law has been misapplied. The appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of the locally filed complaint and a copy of the district's decision. (5 CCR 4632)

Upon notification by the CDE that the complainant has appealed the district's decision, the Superintendent or designee shall forward the following documents to the CDE: (5 CCR 4633)

1. A copy of the original complaint
2. A copy of the decision
3. A summary of the nature and extent of the district's investigation, if not covered by the decision
4. A copy of the investigation file, including but not limited to all notes, interviews, and documents submitted by the parties and gathered by the investigator
5. A report of any action taken to resolve the complaint
6. A copy of the district's complaint procedures
7. Other relevant information requested by the CDE

*For more information please call the
Superintendent's Office at (530) 672-4810*