

<b>MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT 60-3</b>	<b>NEPN Code: KLD</b>
<b>SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS</b>	

**PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

The Marion School District welcomes constructive criticism of the schools when it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the education program and to help the school personnel in performing their tasks more effectively.

The School Board places trust in its employees and desires to support their actions in such a manner that employees are freed from unnecessary, spiteful, or negative criticism and complaints. A complaint is defined as a written concern or issue of a parent of a student or patron of the District based upon an alleged violation, misinterpretation, or inequitable application of the provisions of school policy, state or federal law or state or federal regulation. An alleged violation, misinterpretation or inequitable application of a non-existing school policy, state or federal law or state or federal regulation shall not constitute a “complaint” for purposes of Policy KLD or Policy KLD-E.

Whenever a complaint is made directly to the School Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, it shall be referred to the school administration for study and possible solutions. The Complaint Resolution Procedure set forth in Policy KLD-E shall be followed when addressing complaints. The individual employee involved shall be advised of the nature of the complaint and will be given every opportunity for explanation, comment, and presentation of the facts as he/she sees them.

In cases of discipline or other school matters relating to their children, parents will first discuss the matter with the teacher. If, for some reason, they are not satisfied, they may further discuss the matter with the following persons in the following order: the building principal, then the superintendent. If the superintendent is unable to satisfy the parents, he/she will report the case to the School Board for consideration and action. The Board will not consider or act on complaints that have not been explored at the appropriate administrative level. The Board will consider hearing citizen complaints when they cannot be resolved by the administration. Matters referred to the Board must be in writing and should be specific in terms of the complaint and the action desired. The school board will conduct a hearing in executive session for the purpose of addressing the complaint.

The School Board will render its decision, which the superintendent will implement. The decision of the Board may be appealed pursuant to SDCL 13-46, Appeals in School Matters.

**LEGAL REFERENCE:** SDCL 13-46 – Appeals in School Matters  
**REVISED:** February 15, 2011