

STANDARD COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCEDURE FOR EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

This complaint resolution procedure applies to all programs administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

A complaint is a written allegation that a local education agency (LEA) or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) has violated a federal statute or regulation that applies to a program under ESSA.

Any parent or guardian, surrogate parent, teacher, administrator, school board member, or other person directly involved with an activity, program or project operated under the general supervision of the Department may file a complaint. Such a complaint must be in writing and signed; it will provide specific details of the situation and indicate the law or regulation that is allegedly being violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted.

The written, signed complaint must be filed and the resolution pursued in accordance with local district policy. Local policy and procedure calls for such complaints to be filed with the building level administrator for building level issues or to the superintendent of schools if it is a district level issue or if the situation cannot be resolved at the building level. If a complaint has been made and appealed in accordance with administrative procedures, the parent/guardian or member of the public may appeal the issue to the Board by submitting a written request to the superintendent or the secretary of the Board. The Board will address the complaint in an appropriate and timely manner. If the issue cannot be resolved at the local level, the complainant may file a complaint with the Missouri Department of Education. If there is no evidence that the parties have attempted in good faith to resolve the complaint at the local level, the Department may require the parties to do so and may provide technical assistance to facilitate such resolution.

Any persons directly affected by the actions of the Department may file a similarly written complaint if they believe state or federal laws or regulations have been violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted by the Department itself.

Anyone wishing more information about this procedure or how complaints are resolved may contact local district or Department personnel.