

**STUDENT COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES**

The Board of Education (the Board) believes it is necessary that students be made aware of the behavior that is expected of them, as outlined in Bethlehem Central School District (the District) policies on school conduct and discipline. Building principals are responsible for ensuring that appeal procedures are incorporated into discipline codes and/or student handbooks, explained to all students, and provided to all parents on an annual basis.

The Board encourages students to be active participants in the educational process. The Board strives to provide students with a sound educational environment, ensure that all students are treated fairly, and afford students the due process protections they are entitled to under the law. The Board understands that there may be times when students do not agree with school practices or feel as though they have been treated unfairly.

Many concerns about school practices can and should be addressed through the student government. Student handbooks may also provide valuable information. For other issues, the District has different channels for resolution of complaints, depending on the nature of the complaint. Understanding the Board policy on an issue is the first step towards resolving any complaints. Students are urged to follow the established Board policy, but should always feel free to discuss concerns with any school staff member or the building principal. School staff and administrators are expected to work with students toward an amicable resolution of the issue.

Below is a list of the issues and corresponding policies:

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Policy (Policy number)</b>
Civil rights; discrimination	Equal Opportunity (0100) Code of Conduct (5300)
Disciplinary matters	Code of Conduct (5300)
District policies and practices	Student government and/or Complaints from the Public (1400)
Due process	Code of Conduct (5300)
Free speech	School-Sponsored Student Expression (5220); Student Personal Expression (5225)

Harassment, hazing, bullying	Harassment, Hazing and Bullying (0115) Code of Conduct (5300)
Privacy (lockers, searches)	Code of Conduct (5300)
School practices and environment	Student government and/or Complaints from the Public (1400) Code of Conduct (5300)
Sexual harassment	Sexual Harassment (0110) Code of Conduct (5300)
Student educational records	Student Records (5500)
Student rights and responsibilities	Code of Conduct (5300)
Teachers	Complaints from the Public (1400)

Cross-ref:

- 0100, Equal Opportunity
- 0110, Sexual Harassment
- 0115, Harassment, Hazing and Bullying
- 1400, Complaints from the Public
- 5220, School-Sponsored Student Expression
- 5225, Student Personal Expression
- 5300, Code of Conduct
- 5500, Student Records

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