

## EMPLOYEE CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS

*Category: O*

*Appendix: Policy GBK-R*

It is the Board's desire that procedures for settling differences provide for prompt and equitable resolution at the lowest possible administrative level and that each employee be assured an opportunity for orderly presentation and review of complaints without fear of reprisal. The Board encourages the resolution of employee concerns prior to entering the concern communication procedure, which is defined below.

A "concern" or "complaint" is defined as an alleged material violation Board policies or administrative procedures that apply to all employees.

The process designated for the resolution of "grievances" is established in the collective bargaining agreement, if applicable.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to imply in any manner the establishment of personal rights not explicitly established by statute or Board policy. Neither shall anything in this policy be construed to establish any condition prerequisite relative to non-renewal of contracts, transfer, assignment, dismissal or any other employment decision relating to school personnel.

All employment decisions remain within the sole and continuing discretion of the administration and/or Board of Education, as appropriate, subject only to the conditions and limitations prescribed by law.

In order to promote efficiency in the administration of schools and to avoid misunderstandings and misinterpretations, all personnel must observe a chain of command when bringing staff concerns or complaints to the administration's attention.

In order to promote such efficiency, the following guidelines should be followed:

1. All personnel employed by the District shall be responsible to the Board through the Superintendent. No dispute or other personnel issue shall be brought to the Board without first having gone to the Superintendent for determination. No personnel issues will be brought to the Board unless the affected employee has a right to a hearing before the Board, as established by law or collective bargaining agreement.
2. No dispute or other personnel issue shall be brought to the Superintendent without first having been presented to the building Principal for determination.
3. Building personnel working under the immediate direction and/or supervision of someone other than the building Principal will inform their immediate superior of any dispute or personnel issue s/he intends to bring to the principal.

It is the Board's policy not to involve itself in personnel complaints or disputes until the matter has properly followed these guidelines.

Unless the affected employee has a right to hearing before the Board, administrative decisions

shall be final. An employee's failure to adhere to such decision or directive may be considered insubordination and may lead to adverse employment action.

**Legal References:**

*RSA 189:13, Dismissal of Teacher*

*RSA 189:14-a, Failure to be Re-nominated or Re-elected*

SAU #7 Policy Committee: Recommended for Adoption – August 22, 2018

Colebrook School Board: Adopted – September 18, 2018

Pittsburg School Board: Adopted – September 24, 2018

Stewartstown School Board: Adopted – October 1, 2018