

Sumter County School Board
Procedures for Unresolved Student Welfare Complaints
School Level: Form A

A written complaint must be provided to the school principal by the parent or guardian of a student at the public school that is the subject of the dispute. A form has been provided that contains the needed information of the subject of the dispute.

School Board Policy 5710 –Student and Parent Complaints outlines the process to file a complaint in regards to F.S. 1001.42(8)(c). Link to Policy 5710: <https://go.boarddocs.com/fla/scsfl/Board.nsf/Public#>

A parent or guardian may seek resolution of certain disputes with a school principal or his designee and then, if the dispute remains unresolved, an additional method to attempt to resolve the dispute at the district level. If the dispute is not resolved, a school district must provide a parent or guardian a statement of the reasons for not resolving the dispute.

If certain disputes cannot be resolved at the district level, the parent may request to seek resolution through a Special Magistrate. The types of disputes a Special Magistrate can consider are listed below, please check the subject of your dispute:

CLASSIFY THE NATURE OF YOUR DISPUTE

- In accordance with the rights of parents enumerated in ss. 1002.20 and 1014.04, F.S., the school district must adopt **procedures for notifying a student’s parent if there is a change in the student’s services or monitoring related to the student’s mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school’s ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student.** The procedures must reinforce the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their children by requiring school district personnel to encourage a student to discuss issues relating to the student’s well-being with his or her parent or to facilitate discussion of the issue with the parent. The procedures may not prohibit parents from accessing any of their student’s educational and health records created, maintained, or used by the school district, as required by s. 1001.22(2), F.S.
- A school district may not adopt procedures or student support forms that prohibit school district personnel from notifying a parent about his or her student’s mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being, or a change in related services or monitoring, or that encourage or have the effect of encouraging a student to withhold from a parent such information. **School district personnel may not discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student’s mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being.** This requirement does not prohibit a school district from adopting procedures that permit school personnel to withhold information from a parent if a reasonably prudent person would believe that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect as defined in s. 39.01, F.S.
- Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity** may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards.
- Student support services **training** developed or provided by a school district to school district personnel **must adhere to student services guidelines, standards, and frameworks** established by the Department of Education.
- At the beginning of the school year, the school district must notify parents of each **healthcare service offered at their student’s school and the option to withhold consent or decline** any specific service. Parental consent to a health care service does not waive the parent’s right to access his or her student’s educational health records or to be notified about a change in his or her student’s services or monitoring.

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- Before administering a **well-being questionnaire or health screening form** to a student in kindergarten through grade 3, the school district must provide the questionnaire or health screening form to the parent and obtain the permission of the parent.
- In accordance with the rights of parents enumerated in ss. 1002.20 and 1014.04, F.S., the school district must adopt **procedures for notifying a student's parent if there is a change in the student's services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student.** The procedures must reinforce the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their children by requiring school district personnel to encourage a student to discuss issues relating to the student's well-being with his or her parent or to facilitate discussion of the issue with the parent. The procedures may not prohibit parents from accessing any of their student's educational and health records created, maintained, or used by the school district, as required by s. 1001.22(2), F.S.
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 - ❖ A Special Magistrate is not available to resolve disputes alleging a violation of the educational rights of a student with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) and corresponding state requirements. Please see Rule 6A-6.03311, Fla. Admin. Code, for the process to resolve these types of disputes.
 - ❖ A Special Magistrate will not be appointed for a number of other reasons, such as resolution of the dispute, a change in circumstances, the failure to complete school district procedures for resolution, or the inability to provide the relief sought.

