

Complaint Procedures

Board policy GAE describes the complaint and grievances procedure for certified and non-certified personnel. Parents/school communication is described in student handbooks and on the website. Parents are expected to address complaints or grievances beginning at the school level with the teacher first and then the administration. Central office personnel should be contacted next should parents feel the issues have not been resolved. Conferences forms/notes/minutes are kept on file as documentation of the issues.

Complaint procedures under the ESEA are available from the Associate Superintendent. The complaint procedures describe grounds for complaints, federal programs for which complaints can be filed, filing and investigation of a complaint, as well as rights to appeal. The address to which complaints should be filed is included in the procedure. Information regarding complaint procedures is distributed annually to school administrators to share with their staff. Copies are kept on file in each school's front office.

A. Grounds for a Complaint

Any individual, organization or agency (complainant) may file a complaint with the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) if that individual, organization or agency believes and alleges that a local educational agency (LEA), the state educational agency (SEA), or an agency or consortium of agencies is violating a federal statute or regulation that applies to a program under the Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The complaint must allege a violation that occurred not more than one year prior to the date that the complaint is received, unless a longer period is reasonable because the violation is considered systemic or ongoing.

B. Federal Programs for Which Complaints Can Be Filed

1. Title I, Part A
2. Title I, Part C: Education of Migrant Children.
3. Title II, Part A: Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund.
4. Title III, Part A: English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement.
5. Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers.
6. Title VI, Part B: Rural and Low-Income Schools.
7. Title X, Part C – McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

C. Complaints Originating at the Local Level

As part of its Assurances within ESEA program grant applications and pursuant to Section 9306 within the Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), an LEA accepting federal funds also agrees to adopt local written procedures for the receipt and resolution of complaints alleging violations of law in the administration of covered programs. Therefore, for complaints originating at the local level, a complaint should not be filed with the GaDOE until every effort has been made to resolve the issue through local written complaint procedures. If the complainant has tried to file a complaint with Union County Schools to no avail, the complainant must provide the GaDOE with written proof of their attempt to resolve the issue with Union County Schools.

D. Filing a Complaint

A complaint must be made in writing and signed by the complainant. The complaint must include the following:

1. A statement that the LEA has violated a requirement of a federal statute or regulation that applies to an applicable program.
 2. The date on which the violation occurred.
 3. The facts on which the statement is based and the specific requirement allegedly violated (include citation to the federal statute or regulation).
 4. A list of the names and telephone numbers of individuals who can provide additional information.
 5. Whether a complaint has been filed with any other government agency, and if so, which agency.
 6. Copies of all applicable documents supporting the complainant's position.
 7. The address of the complainant.
- The complaint must be addressed to:

Dr. Jeremy Williams
Associate Superintendent
Union County Schools
124 Hughes Street
Blairsville, GA 30512

E. Investigation of Complaint

Within ten days of receipt of the complaint, Union County School System will issue a Letter of Acknowledgement to the complainant that contains the following information:

1. The date Union County Schools received the complaint.
2. How the complainant may provide additional information.
3. A statement of the ways in which Union County Schools may investigate or address the complaint.
4. Any other pertinent information.

If additional information or an investigation is necessary, the district will have 60 days from receipt of the information or completion of the investigation to issue a Letter of Findings. If the Letter of Findings indicates that a violation has been found, corrective action will be required and timelines for completion will be included. The 60 day may be extended, if exceptional circumstances exist. The Letter of Findings will be sent directly to the complainant, as well as the other parties involved.

F. Right of Appeal

If the complaint cannot be resolved at the local level, the complainant has the right to request review of the decision by the Georgia Department of Education. For complaints filed pursuant to Section 9503 (20 U.S.C. 7883, complaint process for participation of private school children), a complainant may appeal to the Georgia Department of Education no later than thirty (30) days from the date on which the complainant receives the Letter of Findings. The appeal must be accompanied by a copy of the school system's decision and include a complete statement of the reasons supporting the appeal.

Complaint Form for Federal Programs under the ESEA Act

Please print

Name (Complainant):	
Mailing Address:	Phone Number (home):
	Phone Number (work):
Person/department complaint is being filed against:	Date on which violation occurred:
Statement that Union County School System has violated a requirement of a Federal statute or regulation that applies to an applicable program (include citation to the Federal statute or regulation—attach additional sheets if necessary):	
The facts on which the statement is based and the specific requirement allegedly violated (attach additional sheets if necessary):	
List the names and telephone numbers of individuals who can provide additional information. <i>Please attach/enclose copies of all applicable documents supporting your position.</i>	
Has a complaint been filed with any other government agency? If so, provide the name of the agency.	
Signature of Complainant:	Date:
Mail or deliver this form to: Dr. Jeremy Williams Associate Superintendent Union County Schools 124 Hughes Street Blairsville, GA 30512	OFFICE ONLY Date Received: Date of Response to Complainant: