

**CRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY**

POLICY: SPECIFIC PLAN FOR DEALING WITH STUDENT GRIEVANCES CONCERNS

The procedure outlined herein in no way limits students' opportunities to communicate their grievances to members of the professional staff. It provides an additional means of having them heard. The extent to which one or the other means is used may vary with the maturity of the students.

The Student Government serves as the principal coordinating body between students, faculty and administration. Constitutionally designed to "unify all of our (student) activities under one head..." and to "provide for the general welfare of the school..." the Student Government is the central body through which student grievances are expressed. All students have the right to make their grievances known to the Student Government and to request appropriate action by that body. It is the responsibility of the Student Government to decide on appropriate action and function as a true representative body of all students.

Specifically, the grievance procedure is:

1. A student communicates his grievance in writing to a Student Government Senator or to an officer, indicating the specific nature of his/her grievance and the desired Student Government action.
2. A preliminary discussion will be initiated at a regular Student Government meeting, and if interest warrants, the grievance will be assigned to the appropriate committee. The student who initiated the grievance will be required to attend this meeting and present his/her grievance.
3. The committee will discuss the grievance and respond to the grievant within ten (10) school days.
4. Based on the Committee's findings, the Student Government will then: (1) act on the Committee recommendations; (2) request further investigation by the committee; or (3) take no action, indicating the matter should no longer be considered.
5. **The principal shall be an integral part of evaluation and determination of all students.**
6. The results of the Student Government action are then reported to the student body.

Depending upon the nature of the specific grievance, the Student Government may wish to involve only elected representatives in the matter, only interested students, all students, the faculty through the Faculty Advisory Committee, the entire faculty in a regular or special faculty meeting, the Assistant Principal or both the Assistant Principal and the Principal, the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education and/or a specific town official or specific town organization or governing body. This policy applies to grades 9-12. The Chief School Administrator and principals may develop procedures that carry out the intent of this policy at lower grades where there is not a formal student government.

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
 N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)

New Jersey State Board of Education Resolution, September 3, 1980,
encourages development of local written policy on pupil conduct.

New Jersey State Department of Education, Handbook for Developing a Code of Conduct for Students, February 1981

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	1312	Community complaints and inquiries
	5113	Absences and excuses
	5114	Suspension and expulsion
	5131	Conduct/discipline
	5145.4	Equal educational opportunity

Adopted: August 18, 1989

Revised: August 31, 1998

Revised: