

**Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures**

## Types of Complaints

The district shall use the following procedures to investigate and resolve complaints when the complainant alleges that any of the following has occurred: (Education Code [35186](#); 5 CCR [4681](#), [4682](#), [4683](#))

1. Textbooks and instructional materials
  - a. A pupil, including an English learner, does not have standards-aligned textbooks or instructional materials or state- or district-adopted textbooks or other required instructional materials to use in class.
  - b. A pupil, including an English learner, does not have access to textbooks or instructional materials to use at home or after school. This does not require two sets of textbooks or instructional materials for each pupil.
  - c. Textbooks or instructional materials are in poor or unusable condition, have missing pages, or are unreadable due to damage.
  - d. A pupil was provided photocopied sheets from only a portion of a textbook or instructional materials to address a shortage of textbooks or instructional materials.
2. Teacher vacancy or misassignment
  - a. A semester begins and a teacher vacancy exists.
  - b. A teacher who lacks credentials or training to teach English learners is assigned to teach a class with more than 20 percent English learner pupils in the class.

(cf. [4112.22](#) - Staff Teaching Students of Limited English Proficiency)

- c. A teacher is assigned to teach a class for which the teacher lacks subject matter competency.

Teacher vacancy means a position to which a single designated certificated employee has not been assigned at the beginning of the year for an entire year or, if the position is for a one-semester course, a position to which a single designated certificated employee has not been assigned at the beginning of the semester for an entire semester. (Education Code [35186](#); 5 CCR [4600](#))

Beginning of the year or semester means the first day classes necessary to serve all the pupils enrolled are established with a single designated certificated employee assigned for the duration of the class, but not later than 20 working days after the first day pupils attend classes for that semester. (5 CCR [4600](#))

Misassignment means the placement of a certificated employee in a teaching or services position for which the employee does not hold a legally recognized certificate or credential or the placement of a certificated employee in a teaching or services position that the employee is not otherwise authorized by statute to hold. (Education Code [35186](#); 5 CCR [4600](#))

(cf. [4112.2](#) - Certification)

(cf. [4113](#) - Assignment)

3. Facilities

- a. A condition poses an emergency or urgent threat to the health or safety of pupils or staff.

Emergency or urgent threat means structures or systems that are in a condition that poses a threat to the health and safety of pupils or staff while at school, including, but not limited to, gas leaks; nonfunctioning heating, ventilation, fire sprinklers, or air-conditioning systems; electrical power failure; major sewer line stoppage; major pest or vermin infestation; broken windows or exterior doors or gates that will not lock and that pose a security risk; abatement of hazardous materials previously undiscovered that pose an immediate threat to pupils or staff; or structural damage creating a hazardous or uninhabitable condition. (Education Code [17592.72](#))

- b. A school restroom has not been cleaned, maintained, or kept open in accordance with Education Code [35292.5](#).

Clean or maintained school restroom means a school restroom has been cleaned or maintained regularly, is fully operational, or has been stocked at all times with toilet paper, soap, and paper towels or functional hand dryers. (Education Code [35292.5](#))

Open restroom means, the school has kept all restrooms open during school hours when pupils are not in classes and has kept a sufficient number of restrooms open during school hours when pupils are in classes. This does not apply when the temporary closing of the restroom is necessary for pupil safety or to make repairs. (Education Code [35292.5](#))

4. High school exit examination intensive instruction and services

A pupil, including an English learner, who has not passed the exit exam by the end of grade 12 was not provided the opportunity to receive intensive instruction and services pursuant to Education Code [37254](#)(d)(4) and (5) after completion of grade 12 for two consecutive academic years or until the pupil has passed both parts of the exam, whichever comes first. (Education Code [35186](#))

(cf. [6162.52](#) - High School Exit Examination)

(cf. [6179](#) - Supplemental Instruction)

Filing of Complaint

A complaint alleging any condition(s) specified in items #1-3 in the section entitled "Types of Complaints" above shall be filed with the principal or designee at the school in which the complaint arises. The principal or designee shall forward a complaint about problems beyond his/her authority to the Superintendent or designee in a timely manner, but not to exceed 10 working days. (Education Code [35186](#); 5 CCR [4680](#))

A complaint alleging any deficiencies specified in item #4 in the section entitled "Types of Complaints" above shall be filed with a district official as designated by the Superintendent. Such complaints may be filed at the district office or at a school site and shall be immediately forwarded to the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code [35186](#))

#### Investigation and Response

The principal or designee shall make all reasonable efforts to investigate any problem within his/her authority. He/She shall remedy a valid complaint within a reasonable time period not to exceed 30 working days from the date the complaint was received. (Education Code [35186](#); 5 CCR [4685](#))

Complaints may be filed anonymously. If the complainant has indicated on the complaint form that he/she would like a response to the complaint, the principal or designee shall report the resolution of the complaint to him/her within 45 working days of the initial filing of the complaint. If a response is requested, the response shall be made to the mailing address of the complainant as indicated on the complaint form. At the same time, the principal or designee shall report the same information to the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code [35186](#); 5 CCR [4680](#), [4685](#))

When Education Code [48985](#) is applicable and the complainant has requested a response, the response shall be written in English and in the primary language in which the complaint was filed. (Education Code [35186](#))

If a complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint, he/she has the right to describe the complaint to the Board of Trustees at a regularly scheduled meeting. (Education Code [35186](#); 5 CCR [4686](#))

For any complaint concerning a facilities condition that poses an emergency or urgent threat to the health or safety of pupils or staff as described in item #3a in the section entitled "Types of Complaints" above, a complainant who is not satisfied with the resolution proffered by the principal or Superintendent or designee may file an appeal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction within 15 days of receiving the district's response. The complainant shall comply with the appeal requirements specified in 5 CCR [4632](#). (Education Code [35186](#); 5 CCR [4687](#))

All complaints and written responses shall be public records. (Education Code [35186](#); 5 CCR [4686](#))

(cf. [1340](#) - Access to District Records)

#### Reports

The Superintendent or designee shall report summarized data on the nature and resolution of all complaints to the Board and the County Superintendent of Schools on a quarterly basis. The report shall include the number of complaints by general subject area with the number of

resolved and unresolved complaints. These summaries shall be publicly reported on a quarterly basis at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. (Education Code [35186](#); 5 CCR [4686](#))

#### Forms and Notices

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure a Williams complaint form is available at each school. However, complainants need not use the district's complaint form in order to file a complaint. (Education Code [35186](#); 5 CCR [4686](#))

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's complaint form contains space to indicate whether the complainant desires a response to his/her complaint and specifies the location for filing a complaint. A complainant may add as much text to explain the complaint as he/she wishes. (Education Code [35186](#); 5 CCR [4680](#))

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a notice is posted in each classroom in each school containing the components specified in Education Code [35186](#). (Education Code [35186](#))

#### Legal Reference:

#### EDUCATION CODE

[1240](#) County superintendent of schools, duties

[17592.72](#) Urgent or emergency repairs, School Facility Emergency Repair Account

[33126](#) School accountability report card

[35186](#) Williams uniform complaint procedure

[35292.5](#) Restrooms, maintenance and cleanliness

[37254](#) Supplemental instruction based on failure to pass exit exam by end of grade 12

[48985](#) Notice to parents in language other than English

[60119](#) Hearing on sufficiency of instructional materials

#### CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

[4600-4687](#) Uniform complaint procedures, especially:

[4680-4687](#) Williams complaints

#### Management Resources:

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California County Superintendents Educational Services Association: <http://www.ccsesa.org>

California Department of Education, Williams case: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/ce/wc/index.asp>

State Allocation Board, Office of Public School Construction: <http://www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov>