

## Parental Rights Complaints Under House Bill 1557

Parents/legal guardians do have the right to file complaints under House Bill 1557. If a parent/legal guardian notifies a principal of concerns that the provisions of this Bill have been violated, the principal must attempt to resolve those concerns within seven (7) calendar days after notification by the parent/legal guardian. The parent/legal guardian may notify the principal in writing via email or regular U.S. mail of the concern. [Principal Contact](#)

If a parent/legal guardian invokes this procedure, principals shall contact their area superintendent/chief/associate superintendent, who will involve the Office of Legal Services to provide guidance on the resolution of the concerns. Once the resolution is determined, the principal shall contact the parent/legal guardian either through a reply email or a letter sent via U.S. Mail to the parent informing the parent/legal guardian of the principal's determination.

If the parent/legal guardian is not satisfied with the principal's determination and escalates the concerns to the appropriate area superintendent/chief/associate superintendent, the concern must be resolved to the parent's/legal guardian's satisfaction within thirty (30) days after notification, or the appropriate area superintendent/chief/associate superintendent must provide a statement of the reason(s) for not resolving the concerns. Such statement may be sent via email or via letter sent by U.S. Mail.

If the concern is not resolved, the parent/legal guardian may request that the Commissioner of Education appoint a special magistrate to address a parent's/legal guardian's dispute or file a declaratory judgment action in court.

In order to request appointment of a special magistrate, a parent/legal guardian must complete the "Parental Request for Appointment of a Special Magistrate" form. Parents/legal guardians must describe the nature of the dispute, the resolution or relief sought at the school and district level, describe the resolution sought from the special magistrate and the State Board of Education, and demonstrate that before filing for the appointment of a special magistrate, resolution was sought by the parent/legal guardian with the student's principal and subsequent to that, resolution was sought by the parent/legal guardian at the district level.

Parents/legal guardians can find additional information on the [Florida Department of Education Special Magistrate Requests](#) page.

*\*This section complies with [Section 1001.42\(8\)\(c\)\(7\), Florida Statutes](#) and [Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.094125](#).*