

Federal Complaint Procedures

A. Grounds for a Complaint

Any individual, organization, or agency ("complainant") may file a complaint with the Meriwether County School System (MCSS) if that individual, organization or agency believes and alleges that MCSS 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 (1) year prior to the date 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: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies.
2. Title I, Part C: Education of Migrant Children.
3. Title I, Part D: Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk.
4. Title II, Part A: Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund.
5. Title II, Part D: Enhancing Education through Technology.
6. Title III, Part A: English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement.
7. Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2: Rural and Low-Income Schools.
8. Title IX, Part E, Subpart 1, Section 9503: Complaint Process for Participation of Private School Children.
9. 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 Georgia Department of Education 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 Meriwether County School System to no avail, the complainant must provide the Georgia Department of Education with written proof of their attempt to resolve the issue with Meriwether County School System.

D. Filing a Complaint

1. A complaint must be made in writing and signed by the complainant. The complaint must include the following:
2. A statement that Meriwether County School System has violated a requirement of a federal statute or regulation that applies to an applicable program;
3. The date on which the violation occurred;
4. The facts on which the statement is based and the specific requirement allegedly violated (include citation to the federal statute or regulation);