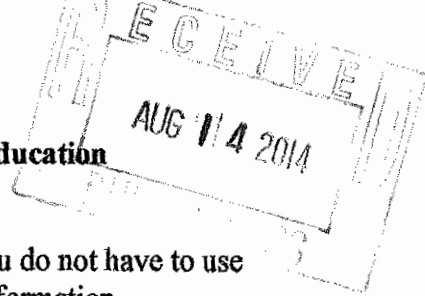


Connecticut State Department of Education - Bureau of Special Education  
Special Education Complaint Form



This is a recommended form for the filing of special education complaints. You do not have to use this form to file a complaint although it will help you to include the required information. (Questions may be directed to Bureau staff at 860-713-6928.) Please complete this form and forward to the parents or school district (as appropriate) and send a copy to:

State Department of Education  
Bureau of Special Education  
P.O. Box 2219 - Room 364  
Hartford, CT 06145-2219

Date: \*8/13/2014 Person/Agency filing the complaint: [redacted]  
Address: [redacted]

[redacted] (town) [redacted] (state) [redacted] (zip) Email: \* [redacted]

Parent's Name (if different): \* [redacted] Phone: \* Unknown. Student is 21

Child's Name [redacted] (last) [redacted] (middle) [redacted] (first) Date of Birth \* [redacted]

Education Agency (school district)\* [redacted]

Name of School the Child Attends [redacted] Disability Category\* ID

Child's Address: [redacted] (street) [redacted] (town) CT [redacted] (state) [redacted] (zip)

Be specific as to why you believe that a requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has been violated. Include a description of the relevant facts, the nature of the child's problem and a proposed resolution of the problem to the extent known and available at this time. Please forward a copy of this complaint to the education agency. If necessary, you may attach additional sheets as well as documentation of your complaint allegations.

See Attached.  
Please note that I will be away from my office until 9/8/14. Therefore I have included my vacation phone number. I may also be reached via

Signature of Complainant [redacted]

\*Information requested is optional

August 8, 2014

**BASIS OF COMPLAINT**

Hartford Public Schools has violated the provisions of IDEA (34 C.F.R. Sections 300.618 and 619 and CT. SDE Regulation 10-76d-18(a)(5) and its own policies by refusing the undersigned [REDACTED] request to amend the student's educational record pertaining to the PPT meeting of 5/23/2013 and failing to provide for the hearing requested by the [REDACTED] to discuss the requested revision. By so doing, Hartford Public Schools has deprived the undersigned [REDACTED] of his ability and right to fully participate in the student's educational process and ensure the accuracy of the student's educational records.

Attached is a list of the many communications between the undersigned and Hartford Public Schools concerning this matter. It is noteworthy that after several statements by the Hartford Public School representative agreeing to the revision, the undersigned was told of the decision not to amend on the afternoon just before the running of the Statute of Limitations on the original issue. Hartford Public school's failure to schedule the agreed-upon hearing within a reasonable time after its agreement to the hearing is the basis of this Complaint.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINT**

FERPA (a)(2) states: "No funds shall be made available under any applicable program to any educational agency or institution unless the parents of students who are or have been in attendance at a school of such agency or institution are provided for a hearing by such agency or institution ...to challenge the content of such student's education records...." Therefore, there is a sound basis for denying Hartford Public Schools Federal funding.

Alternatively, either the requested revision to the IEP document of the 5/23/2013 PPT meeting should be made or the undersigned should be provided with the requested hearing at a mutually agreed time. Additionally, due to a previous decision on this matter, instruction concerning the proper response to a parent's request to revise a student's educational records was provided in the Fall of 2012. Clearly additional instruction in this matter to Hartford Public School staff is required.

*Please provide me with a copy of Hartford's responses.*

*Original mailed to C. Kennedy, Hartford Public Schools.  
cc. To J. Pappas without attachments  
" M. Cristofaro without attachments*

On 5/23/13, a PPT meeting was held concerning the student.

On 6/21/13, I emailed Mary Cristofaro (MC) concerning a misstatement in the Summary of the 5/23/13 meeting. She responded on 6/24/13 requesting the student's last name and date of birth to which I responded.

On 7/8/13, MC advised me that the "IEP" had been archived, but my 6/21/13 email would be included as an attachment.

On 7/11/14, I requested "the district's procedure ...for parents who wish to challenge the information contained in the student's educational records." MC responded requesting clarification. I responded citing SDE Reg's 10-76d-18(a)(5) on this subject.

On 7/18/13, I emailed MC stating that I had not received the requested policy and procedures. MC replied that she had forwarded my request to James Pappas (JP).

On 8/13/13, after returning from vacation, I emailed MC with a copy to JP that I still had not received the requested policy and procedures.

On 8/15 & 16, JP called me to discuss my request and I forwarded him a copy of my 7/11/13 email to MC. He advised he would speak with MC.

On 8/29/13 in response to his phone call, I provided JP with suggested rewording of the revision.

On 9/16/13, I followed up with JP by forwarding to him the 8/29/13 email and on 9/17, he replied by phone that he would so revise the Summary.

On 1/11/2014, I reminded JP by email that the matter had still not been resolved.

On 4/27/2014, I emailed Claire Kennedy (CK) to advise her that this longstanding matter was still outstanding and that I would like to resolve it without filing a Complaint.

On 5/9/2014, CK responded, attaching a copy of the relevant Hartford Public School Policy and Procedure Manual and advising that she would discuss the matter with JP. I responded on the same date.

On 5/12-14/2014, MC and I exchanged emails concerning the transcription of excerpts of the tape of the 5/23/2013 meeting Summary.

On 5/18/2014, JP and I exchanged emails and I noted the shortage of time to resolve the matter.

On 5/20/2014 a number of emails were exchanged which included JP's statements that he would revise as per my 8/29/2013 fax and our 9/17/2013 conversation and fax the amendment to me the next morning.

On 5/21/2014, I emailed JP that I had not received the fax. He responded that he was completing it "as we speak". I subsequently emailed again that I had not received the document. After repeated assurances that my revision request would be granted JP stated that it would not be, but that my request for a hearing would be granted. I responded with a request for possible dates for the hearing.

On 6/5/2014, I emailed JP requesting a response to my 5/21/2014 request for dates for a hearing. MC replied that she gave him some dates and he would coordinate the meeting.

On 6/30/2014, in a phone conversation originating from another matter, I advised JP that the hearing had still not been scheduled. He agreed to pursue the matter.

There has been no further communication on this matter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]