

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Private Nonprofit (PNP) Complaints and Procedures

Under ESSA (Sections 1117 and 8501), an LEA is required to provide eligible private school children, their teachers, and their families services that are equitable to those provided in eligible public schools. Private school officials have recourse through the complaint process if they do not believe their eligible students or teachers are receiving equitable services. The Ombudsman serves as the primary point of contact for responding and resolving any complaints regarding equitable services.

If private school officials believe that timely and meaningful consultation has not occurred, they should first discuss concerns with the local school district, Regional Education Service Center (ESC), or 3rd party provider responsible for coordinating the consultation between the two entities. In the event the problem is not resolved, private school officials have the right to file a formal written complaint with the state's Ombudsman.

A written complaint must include:

- The complaint contact information;
- The specific requirement(s) not met;
- A statement that the local school district, ESC, or 3rd party provider has failed to meet requirements for equitable participation;
- The facts on which the complaint is based;
- The dates and events related to the complaint;
- Description of documents that support the described facts; and
- The complaint's efforts to resolve the complaint in other ways.

Mailed complaints should be sent directly to:
Texas State Ombudsman for PNP Equitable Services
Attn: Department of Grants Compliance and Oversight
Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

PNP officials may electronically submit the written complaint at:

<https://www.research.net/r/PNPComplaintForm>.

