

## **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION**

Child abuse and neglect are both a violation of children's human rights and an obstacle to their educational development. The board directs that staff shall be alert for any evidence of such abuse or neglect. For purposes of this policy, "child abuse or neglect" shall mean:

- A. Custodial interference; malicious harassment;
- B. Child molestation;
- C. Sexual misconduct with a minor;
- D. Rape of a child;
- E. Patronizing a juvenile prostitute; child abandonment;
- F. Promoting pornography;
- G. Selling or distributing erotic material to a minor;
- H. Custodial assault;
- I. Violation of child abuse restraining order;
- J. Child buying or selling, prostitution; or
- K. Any of these crimes as they may be renamed in the future by any person under circumstances which indicate that the child's health, welfare, and safety is harmed.

When feasible, the district will provide community education programs for prospective parents, foster parents and adoptive parents on parenting skills and on the problems of child abuse and methods to avoid child abuse situations. The district shall also encourage staff to participate in in-service programs that deal with the issues surrounding child abuse.

The Superintendent shall develop reporting procedures, including sample indicators of abuse and neglect, and shall disseminate the procedures to all staff. The purpose is to identify and report as soon as possible to the proper authorities all evidence of child abuse or neglect.

Staff is legally responsible for reporting all suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. For that reason, under state law staff is free from liability for reporting instances of abuse or neglect and are criminally liable for failure to do so.

Staff need not verify that a child has in fact been abused or neglected. Any conditions or information that may reasonably be related to abuse or neglect should be reported. Legal authorities have the responsibility for investigating each case and taking such action as is appropriate under the circumstances.

Cross References:

Board Policy 4310

Relations with the Law Enforcement and  
Child Protective Agencies

Legal References:

RCW 13.34.250

Failure to cause juvenile to attend school as  
evidence under neglect petition

26.44.020

Child abuse--Definitions

26.44.30

Reports--Duty and authority to make--Duty  
of receiving agency

26.44.70

Central registry of reported cases of child abuse

28A.620.010

Community education provisions—Purposes

28A.620.020

Community education provisions—Restrictions

43.43.830(6)

Background checks--Access to children or  
vulnerable persons