

## SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT

The Board of Education recognizes that because of their sustained contact with school-aged children, employees are in an excellent position to identify abused or maltreated children and refer them for treatment and protection.

Any school official or employee who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or maltreatment will immediately report this to the New York State Child Abuse and Maltreatment Register, as required by law.

School employees and officials will not contact the child's family or any other person to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or maltreatment. It is not the responsibility of the school official or employee to prove that the child has been abused or maltreated.

In accordance with the law, any employee who fails to report an instance of suspected child abuse or maltreatment may be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and may be held liable for the damages caused by the failure to report. The law grants immunity from any liability that might otherwise be incurred to employees and other persons who report in good faith instances of child abuse.

The district will cooperate to the extent possible with authorized child protective services workers in investigations of alleged child abuse.

The school district shall maintain an ongoing training program for all current and new employees which will address the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment.

A copy of this policy, along with the administrative regulations explaining the reporting requirements, shall be distributed to all members of the professional staff.

Cross~ref: 5314, Corporal Punishment Complaints

5500, Student Records

Ref: Child Protective Services Act of 1973, Social Services Law 1

' 411 et

seq.

Family Court Act '1012

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. '1232g, 45 CFR

'99.36

Education Law 1 3209-a

Note:

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