

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: June 6, 2023

NUMBER: 23-128

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed
Revisions to BP 5141.4,
Students, Child Abuse and
Neglect; First Reading

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Improve Stakeholder Communication.

ABSTRACT:

Board policy revisions require Board approval.

ISSUE:

At issue is to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5141.4, Students, Child Abuse and Neglect and open for public comments.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

The Superintendent/designee presents drafts or suggestions for board policy revisions when changes in law occur or when specific need occurs. Policy revisions shall normally be given two readings prior to adoption by the Board. This is the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5141.4, Students, Child Abuse and Neglect.

The Board Policy Committee reviewed the proposed changes, recommends approval and to open for public comments.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the first reading to the proposed revisions to BP 5141.4, Students, Child Abuse and Neglect as presented and open for public comments;
2. Do not approve first reading to the proposed revisions to BP 5141.4 as presented;
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the first reading to the proposed revisions to BP 5141.4, Students, Child Abuse and Neglect as presented and open for public comments.

BP 5141.4 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Note: [-AS 14.08.111](#) and [AS 14.14.090](#) require districts to provide mandatory reporters with training in the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Pursuant to [AS 47.17.020](#), teachers, school administrators, and paid athletic coaches are mandated to report child abuse and neglect. New employees required to report are to be trained on this obligation within 45 days after the first day of employment. [-AS 47.17.022](#). A school district providing training shall provide notice of the training to public and private schools in the district and invite volunteers who are required to report to participate in the training at no cost to the volunteer. Effective June 30, 2017, volunteers who interact with children in public or private school for more than four hours a week are also mandatory reporters of child abuse. [-AS 18.66.310](#) requires school districts to offer continuing education at least once every two years on domestic violence for mandatory reporter employees.

Abuse and neglect affects the well-being of students. Teachers, school administrators, ~~paid~~ athletic coaches and volunteers who interact with children in a school for more than four hours a week shall be trained on the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect in accordance with state law. ~~An athletic coach who is a~~ An unpaid volunteer is not required to report child abuse or neglect unless the ~~coach~~ volunteers for more than 4 hours a week for 4 consecutive weeks, or for 20 hours a week in a one month period, has received training, and signed a form acknowledging the obligation to report. District employees shall cooperate with the child protective agencies responsible for reporting, investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse.

(cf. 4131 ~~— Staff Development~~).

[\(cf. 5141.42 - Professional Boundaries for staff and students\)](#)

The district shall provide notice of child abuse and neglect mandatory reporter training to all public and private schools in the district, [in addition to the training set forth in BP/AR 5141.42, Professional Boundaries for staff and students.](#) All mandatory reporters, including qualifying volunteers, are invited to participate in the training at no cost.

Note: Many school employees may encounter child abuse and neglect. The following optional language expands the number of school employees offered training in child abuse recognition and reporting. It may be revised or deleted as desired.
[Note: Pursuant to AS 47.17.068, failing to report child abuse or neglect mandated by law is a misdemeanor if the person knew or should have known that circumstances gave rise to the need for a report.](#)

~~In addition to the required training provided above, the Superintendent or designee may invite classified personnel who have regular contact with students to participate in child abuse and neglect training. Classified personnel should immediately report instances of suspected child abuse or neglect to the site administrator.~~

~~**Note:** Pursuant to AS 47.17.068, failing to report child abuse or neglect mandated by law is a misdemeanor if the person knew or should have known that circumstances gave rise to the need for a report.~~

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.08.111 Duties (Regional school boards)

14.14.090 Additional duties

18.66.310 Continuing education for public employees, court system employees, and for prosecuting authorities.

47.17.010-47.17.070 Child protection

Revised: November 22, 2016, (Date of Revision)

Adopted: April 28, 2004

Northwest Arctic Borough School District