

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The Board of Education is concerned with the physical and mental well-being of the students of this District and will cooperate in the identification and reporting of cases of child abuse or neglect in accordance with law.

All school personnel, including ~~School Board members~~, administrators, certified employees and non-certified employees, **as well as athletic program personnel and early intervention providers** who have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect shall be responsible for reporting immediately every case, whether ascertained or suspected, of abuse or neglect resulting in physical or mental injury to a student by other than accidental means.

If an allegation is raised to a School Board member during an open or closed School Board meeting that a child is abused, the Board member shall direct, or cause the Board to direct, the Superintendent or equivalent administrator to report the matter to the Department of Children and Family Services in compliance with the requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

All school personnel within the first year of employment shall complete the mandated reporter training. Further, all school personnel must complete the mandated reporter training at least once every five years after their initial training. The mandated reporter training shall be provided by a provider or agency that has expertise in recognizing and reporting child abuse.

The employee shall immediately call the local office of the Department of Social Services.

S/He shall also notify the appropriate administrator according to the District's Reporting Procedure for Student Abuse or Neglect.

The identity of the reporting person shall be confidential, subject only to disclosure by consent or court order. A reporting staff member shall not be dismissed or otherwise penalized for making a report of child abuse or neglect.

Information concerning alleged child abuse is confidential. Any unauthorized disclosure by an official or employee of the District is a violation of the law and subjects the disseminator to civil liability for resulting damages.

~~Each principal~~ **All school personnel** should be mindful of the possibility of physical or mental abuse being inflicted on a student by a staff member. Any such instances, whether real or alleged, should be dealt with in accordance with the administrative guidelines established by the Superintendent.

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325 ILCS 5/1 et seq.

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