

**SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT
OTHER THAN IN AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING**

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.

The purpose of mandatory reporting is to identify suspected abused or maltreated children as soon as possible, so that such children determined to be abused or maltreated can be protected from further harm and they and their families can be offered services, where appropriate.

Pursuant to applicable law, any school official or employee who is a mandated reporter, including but not limited to teachers, guidance counselors, school psychologists and social workers, school nurses, administrators, or other school personnel required to hold a teaching or administrative license or certificate, who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child is being abused or maltreated by a parent or other person legally responsible for the child will first make a report to the State Central Register (SCR) and then immediately notify the Building Principal, who will become responsible for all subsequent administration necessitated by the report.

The report shall be made by a telephone or by fax on a form supplied by the Office of Children and Family Services. An oral report must be followed by a written report within forty-eight (48) hours to the appropriate local child protective service and to the Statewide Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment.

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.

Any school official or employee who has cause to suspect that the death of any child is a result of child abuse or maltreatment must report that fact to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner.

In accordance with the law, any school official or employee who willfully 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 proximately caused by the failure to report. The law grants immunity from liability to school officials and employees who report instances of child abuse immunity in good faith from any liability that might otherwise be incurred.

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

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The School District shall maintain an ongoing training program regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment and its policies and procedures on mandatory reporting of suspect child abuse. Attendance at such trainings shall be required of all District employees who come in contact with students. Attendance records shall be kept, and notations will be made in personnel files as to the dates of attendance.

The Superintendent shall develop with the input from appropriate personnel, a plan for implementation of such a training program, to be approved by the Board. In addition, the policy and regulations will be included in all employee handbooks and distributed annually to all personnel who are not covered under existing handbooks. The Superintendent will prepare and implement all regulations as are necessary to accomplish the intent of this policy.

A copy of this policy, along with the administrative regulations explaining the reporting requirements, shall be distributed to all members of the professional staff, school officials and employees who are mandated reports as set forth above.

Ref: Child Protective Services Act of 1973, Social Services Law §§411, et seq.
Family Court Act §1012
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
20 U.S.C. §45 C.F. R. §99.36
Education Law §3209-a

Adopted: June 21, 2006
Revised: July 1, 2013
Reaffirmed: June 15, 2016