

## **Child Abuse Prevention And Reporting**

### Child Abuse Prevention

The Governing Board recognizes the districts responsibility to educate students about the dangers of child abuse so that they will acquire the skills and techniques needed to identify unsafe situations and to react appropriately and promptly

The districts instructional program shall include age-appropriate and culturally sensitive child abuse prevention curriculum. This curriculum shall explain students right to live free of abuse, inform them of available support resources, and teach them how to obtain help and disclose incidents of abuse. The curriculum also shall include training in self-protection techniques. District courses of study for grades 7 and 8 may include parenting skills education, including instruction on child abuse and neglect.

(cf. 6143 Courses of Study)

The Superintendent or designee shall seek to incorporate community resources into the districts child abuse prevention programs. To the extent feasible, the Superintendent or designee shall use these community resources to provide parents/guardians with instruction in parenting skills and child abuse prevention.

(cf. 1020 Youth Services)

The Governing Board recognizes that the district has a responsibility to protect students by facilitating the prompt reporting of known and suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the identification and reporting of such incidents in accordance with law.

The Governing Board recognizes that students who are victims of abuse may manifest specific behaviors as indicators. The Superintendent or designee shall incorporate current knowledge regarding these behaviors into the procedures for the reporting of such incidents.

The Governing Board recognizes that students who are developmentally disabled are especially vulnerable to being physically, emotionally or sexually abused. Procedures established by the Superintendent or designee to prompt the reporting of known and suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect shall address the needs of students who are developmentally disabled as well as other students with special needs.

(cf. 0450 Comprehensive Safety Plan)

Employees who are mandated reporters, as defined by law and district administrative regulation, are obligated to report all known or suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect. Mandated reporters shall not investigate any suspected incidents but rather shall cooperate with agencies responsible for reporting, investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse and neglect.

Note: Penal Code 11165.7 describes the content of training to be provided to mandated reporters; see the accompanying administrative regulation. Districts that do not provide such training are required to report to the California Department of Education the reasons that training has not been provided. Pursuant to Penal Code 11165.7, a lack of training does not excuse any mandated reporter from the duty to report suspected child abuse and neglect.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training regarding the reporting duties of mandated reporters. Training will incorporate current knowledge regarding behavioral indicators of abuse.

In the event that training is not provided to mandated reporters, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education the reasons that such training is not provided. (Penal Code 11165.7)

Parents/guardians may contact the Superintendent or designee to obtain procedures for filing a complaint against a district employee or other person whom they suspect has engaged in abuse of a child at a school site.

Legal Reference:

#### EDUCATION CODE

32280-32288 Comprehensive school safety plans

33308.1 Guidelines on procedure for filing child abuse complaints

44690-44691 Staff development in the detection of child abuse and neglect

44807 Duty concerning conduct of students

48906 Notification when student released to peace officer

48987 Dissemination of reporting guidelines to parents

49001 Prohibition of corporal punishment

51220.5 Parenting skills education

#### PENAL CODE

152.3 Duty to report murder, rape, or lewd or lascivious act

273a Willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment of child; endangering life or health

288 Definition of lewd or lascivious act requiring reporting

11164-11174.4 Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

#### WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

15630-15637 Dependent adult abuse reporting

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4650 Filing complaints with CDE, special education students

Management Resources:

CDE LEGAL ADVISORIES

0514.93 Guidelines for parents to report suspected child abuse

WEB SITES

California Attorney Generals Office, Crime and Violence Prevention Center: <http://safestate.org>

California Department of Education, Safe Schools: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss>

California Department of Social Services, Children and Family Services

Division: <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information: <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov>

Policy FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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