

CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION

Policy No. 3421

April 4, 2012

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It is the policy of the Seattle School Board that any case of suspected child abuse, neglect, or exploitation shall be immediately reported as required in state law and Board policy, and that appropriate follow-up measures will be taken by the Superintendent or designated representative.

All professional school personnel who have reasonable cause to believe that a child has experienced abuse, neglect, or exploitation shall report such incident to law enforcement or the Children's Protective Services Staff at the first opportunity and in no case longer than forty-eight (48) hours after the finding of possible abuse or neglect. If a household member is believed to be the perpetrator of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation, the report should be made to Child Protective Services. If a non-household member is believed to be the perpetrator of the suspected child abuse, neglect or exploitation, the report should be made to law enforcement. For purposes of this policy, "professional school personnel" includes, but is not limited to, teachers, counselors, administrators (including departmental and area supervisors), school nurses, child care facility personnel, and other professional or certificated personnel.

All District employees who have knowledge or reasonable cause to believe that a student has been a victim of abuse, neglect, or exploitation by any person, shall immediately report such abuse, neglect, or exploitation to the appropriate school administrator. If the school administrator has reasonable cause to believe that the abuse, neglect, or exploitation has occurred, he or she shall report the incident to CPS or law enforcement.

All employees shall receive training regarding their reporting obligations under state law in their orientation training when hired and every three years thereafter.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop reporting procedures, including sample indicators of abuse and neglect, and shall disseminate the procedures to all staff. The purpose is to identify and report as soon as possible to the proper authorities all evidence of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Adopted: April 2012

Revised:

Cross Reference: Policy No. 4310; 5006 Related Superintendent Procedure: 3421SP Previous Policies: D116.00; D116.01

Legal References: RCW 13.34.300 Failure to cause juvenile to attend school as evidence under neglect petition; 13.34.020 - Legislative declaration of family unit as resource to be nurtured — Rights of child; 26.44.010 - Purpose; 26.44.020 Child abuse — Definitions; 26.44.030 Reports — Duty and authority to make — Duty of receiving agency — Duty to notify — Case planning and consultation — Penalty for unauthorized exchange of information — Filing dependency petitions — Interviews of children — Records — Risk assessment process; 26.44.060 — Immunity from Civil or Criminal Liability' 28A.620.010 Community education provisions — Purposes; 28A.620.020 Community education provisions — Restrictions; 43.43.830 Background checks — Access to children or vulnerable persons; 28A.320.160 Alleged sexual misconduct by school employee — Parental notification — Information on public records act; 28A.400.317 Physical abuse or sexual misconduct by school employees — Duty to Report — Training; WA388-15-009 Definition of child abuse, neglect or exploitation; WAC 388-15-009 - Child abuse or neglect; AGO 1987, No. 9 Children — Child Abuse — Reporting by School Officials — Alleged Abuse by Student Management Resources: *Policy News*, April 2010; February 2007; June 1999