

## STUDENTS

### Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Prevention

Because child abuse, neglect, and exploitation are violations of children's human rights and an obstacle to their educational development, the Board directs that staff will be alert for any evidence of such abuse, neglect or exploitation. For purposes of this policy, "child abuse, neglect or exploitation" will mean:

1. Inflicting physical injury on a child by other than accidental means, causing death, disfigurement, skin bruising, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;
2. Creating a substantial risk of physical harm to a child's bodily functioning;
3. Committing or allowing to be committed any sexual offense against a child as defined in the criminal code, or intentionally touching, either directly or through the clothing, the genitals, anus or breasts of a child for other than hygiene, child care or health care purposes;
4. Committing acts which are cruel or inhumane regardless of observable injury. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, instances of extreme discipline demonstrating a disregard of a child's pain or mental suffering;
5. Assaulting or criminally mistreating a child as defined by the criminal code;
6. Failing to provide food, shelter, clothing, supervision or health care necessary to a child's health or safety;
7. Engaging in actions or omissions resulting in injury to, or creating a substantial risk to the physical or mental health or development of a child; or
8. Failing to take reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of the preceding actions.

Child abuse can include abuse by another minor and so may be included in incidents of student misconduct.

The Superintendent shall 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 or neglect. Staff will receive training regarding reporting obligations during their initial orientation and every three years after initial employment.

Staff are required legally responsible to report all suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. A staff member who has knowledge or reasonable cause to believe that a student has been a victim of physical abuse or sexual misconduct by another school employee will report such abuse or misconduct to the appropriate school administrator. The administrator will report to the proper law enforcement agency if he or she has reasonable cause to believe that the misconduct or abuse has occurred as required under RCW 26.44.030. Under state law, staff are free from liability for reporting instances of abuse or neglect and professional staff are criminally liable for failure to do so.

Staff need not verify that a child has, in fact, been abused or neglected. Any conditions or information that may reasonably be related to abuse or neglect should be reported. Legal authorities have the responsibility for investigating each case and taking such action as is appropriate under the circumstances.

Cross Reference: Board Policy No. 4411  
Relations with Law Enforcement and Child Protective Services  
and the County Health Department

Legal References: RCW 13.34.300 Failure to cause juvenile to attend school as evidence under neglect  
petition  
26.44.020 Child abuse—Definitions  
26.44.030 Reports—Duty and authority to make—Duty of receiving agency  
26.44.070 Central registry of reported cases of child abuse  
28A.400.317 Physical abuse or sexual misconduct by school employees —  
Duty to report — Training  
28A.620.010 Community education provisions—Purposes  
28A.620.020 Community education provisions—Restrictions  
43.43.830(6) Background checks—Access to children or vulnerable persons  
WAC 388-15-009 What is child abuse or neglect?  
AGO 1987, No. 9 Children—Child Abuse—Reporting by School Officials —  
Alleged Abuse by Student

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