



Harriet Tubman School of Science and Technology

Child Abuse and/or Neglect Policy

Purpose

This policy relates to the requirement of mandated reporters to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS).

Duration

This policy is permanent but subject to review based on changes to state law.

Policy

SECTION 1. Scope of this Policy and Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

- a. By law, both school employees and school volunteers are considered mandated reporters and, as such, are legally required to report information about suspected child abuse or neglect to the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) according to Georgia law (O.C.G.A. 19-7-5).
- b. Any school employee or school volunteer who suspects a student is being neglected or abused should immediately communicate this information to the Executive Director, and the suspected neglect/abuse will be reported to DFCS.
- c. If for any reason the school employee or school volunteer is unable to reach the Executive Director, the suspect child abuse or neglect should be reported directly to DFCS at 1-855-GA-CHILD.
- d. School employees and school volunteers are protected by law and immune from liability when reporting child abuse in good faith.
- e. School employees and school volunteers who knowingly and willfully fail to report suspected cases of child abuse shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- f. Any school employee or volunteer with questions regarding mandated reporting or anything contained in this policy should contact the Executive Director.

SECTION 2. Potential Signs of Abuse/Neglect

Potential signs of abuse or neglect of a student include the following:

- a. Often left home alone overnight
- b. In the neighborhood for long periods without supervision
- c. Frequently hungry
- d. Dressed inadequately for the weather
- e. Frequently absent from school
- f. Bruised or has other marks of physical violence
- g. Withdrawn or overly aggressive
- h. Not receiving needed medical attention

SECTION 3. Mandated Reporters

- a. School volunteers are required to view the School Mandated Reporter Training materials located on the School website.
- b. After viewing the training materials, the volunteer should submit a signed School Mandated Reporter Training Acknowledgement form (located on the School website (www.harriettubmancsat.com) to the Main Office at 3825 Old Gordon Rd NW, Atlanta GA 30336. The Main Office can be reached via phone at (678) 705-2307.

Approval

Policy Approval Date: February 18, 2021

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