STUDENTS

Child Abuse and Neglect

Because child abuse and neglect are both a violation of children's human rights and an obstacle to their educational development, all district personnel shall be alert for any evidence of such abuse or neglect.

Staff members are legally responsible for reporting all suspected cases of child abuse and neglect within 48 hours. For that reason, under state law, school personnel are free from liability for reporting instances of abuse or neglect and are criminally liable for failure to do so.

Personnel 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.

Staff members receiving information regarding the outcome of reports of suspected cases of child abuse shall not disseminate or release it except as authorized by state and federal statute.

Sexual harassment by others is a growing concern and will be reported.

Legal Reference:	RCW 26.44.030	Reports--Duty and Authority to Make--Duty of Receiving Agency--Duty to Notify

Adopted: September 8, 1993