

Abuse and Sexual Conduct Information and Reporting Requirements for School Contractors, Agents and Volunteers

**ST. HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT
DOES NOT TOLERATE CHILD ABUSE OR SEXUAL CONDUCT IN ANY FORM.**

PREVENTION

The St. Helens School District seeks to prevent child abuse and sexual harassment by committing to:

- Teaching students about appropriate boundaries and relationships (in coordination with curriculum);
- Training all employees regarding child abuse and sexual conduct, and clearly communicating responsibilities and procedures;
- Making this training available to parents, community members, contractors and volunteers; and
- Promptly and thoroughly investigating any reports or complaints of abuse or sexual conduct.

ABUSE DEFINED

- Any assault of a child and any physical injury to a child, which has been caused by other than accidental means, including any injury which appears to be at variance with the explanation given of the injury.
- Any mental injury to a child, which shall include only observable and substantial impairment of the child's mental or psychological ability to function caused by cruelty to the child, with due regard to the culture of the child.
- Rape of a child.
- Sexual abuse.
- Sexual exploitation, including but not limited to: Contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor, and any other conduct which allows, employs, authorizes, permits, induces or encourages a child to engage in the performing for people to observe or the photographing, filming, tape recording or other exhibition which, in whole or in part, depicts sexual conduct or contact, sexual abuse involving a child or rape of a child, and allowing, permitting, encouraging or hiring a child to engage in prostitution or a commercial sex act, to purchase sex with a minor or to engage in commercial sexual solicitation.
- Negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, including but not limited to the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care that is likely to endanger the health or welfare of the child.
- Threatened harm to a child, which means subjecting a child to a substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare.
- Buying or selling a person under 18 years of age.
- Permitting a person under 18 years of age to enter or remain in or upon premises where methamphetamines are being manufactured.
- Unlawful exposure to a controlled substance, or to the unlawful manufacturing of a cannabinoid extract, that subjects a child to a substantial risk of harm to the child's health or safety. ORS 419B.005(1).

SEXUAL CONDUCT DEFINED

Verbal or physical conduct or verbal, written or electronic communications by a school employee, a contractor, an agent or volunteer that involve a student and that are: sexual advances or requests for sexual favors directed toward the student or of a sexual nature that are directed toward the student or that have the effect of unreasonably interfering with the student's educational performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. Sexual conduct does not include touching that is necessitated by the nature of the school employee's job duties or by the services required to be provided by the contractor, agent or volunteer and for which there is no sexual intent. ORS 339.370(11)(a).

STUDENT DEFINED: Any person who is in any grade from pre-kindergarten through grade 12 or twenty-one years of age or younger and receiving educational or related services from an education provider that is not a post-secondary institution or education or who was previously known as a student by the person engaging in sexual conduct and who left school or graduated from high school within 90 days prior to the sexual conduct. ORS 339.370(12).

GROOMING AND EXAMPLES OF SEXUAL CONDUCT

Sexual Conduct may include grooming behavior. This is behavior in which adults develop trust to break down a child's defenses so that the adult may engage the child in sexual conduct or sexual abuse.

Sexual Conduct includes but is not limited to the following examples:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing back rubs on students • Touching students frequently • Exchanging romantic gifts or communications with a student • Discussing/writing about sexual topics unrelated to curriculum with students, making sexual jokes, gestures and innuendos or engaging in inappropriate banter with students (e.g., discussion of student’s dating behavior) • Intentionally invading the student’s privacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kissing students • Commenting on students’ bodies or appearance in a sexual manner • Videotaping or photographing a student in revealing poses • Sharing one’s own sexual exploits or marital difficulties • Using email, text messaging or instant messaging to discuss sexual topic with individual students |
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OBLIGATIONS OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES TO REPORT ABUSE AND SEXUAL CONDUCT

ALL EMPLOYEES are required to follow Policy JHFE “Reporting of Suspected Abuse of a Child” and policy JHFF/GBNAA “Reporting Requirements for Suspected Sexual Conduct with Students.” These policies help ensure employees are properly reporting incidents of abuse and sexual conduct.

Policy JHFE requires employees who have a reasonable cause to believe **any child** with whom the employee has come into contact has suffered abuse, to report this to DHS or the law enforcement agency within the county where the person making the report is located at the time of the contact. It also requires employees who have a reasonable cause to believe that **any adult or student** with whom the employee is in contact has abused a child to report this to DHS or to the law enforcement agency within the county where the person making the report is located at the time of the contact.

Policy JHFF requires employees who have reasonable cause to believe that another employee, contractor, agent or volunteer has engaged in sexual conduct with a student, to immediately notify the designated licensed administration of the conduct. The designated licensed administrator who receives the report is required to report to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE or Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) as appropriate.

INVESTIGATORY PROCESS

When the designated licensed administrator (or alternate) receives a report of sexual conduct and has reasonable cause to believe that it has occurred, the designated licensed administrator will report the alleged conduct to TSPC if the alleged perpetrator is a licensed individual, and to ODE if the alleged perpetrator is not licensed (effective July 1, 2020). TSPC or ODE will conduct an investigation and report back to the district. The district may also conduct an investigation into the alleged sexual conduct. If the designated licensed administrator (or alternate) receives a report of child abuse and has reasonable cause to believe that it has occurred, the designated licensed administrator will ensure that the report has been made to DHS and/or law enforcement for investigation. The district may also conduct an investigation

into the alleged abuse. The designated licensed administrator will also report to TSPC if required by OAR 584-020-0041. A contractor, agent or volunteer may be removed from their position based on information of sexual conduct and/or child abuse.

OBLIGATIONS OF SCHOOL CONTRACTORS, AGENTS AND VOLUNTEERS TO REPORT ABUSE AND SEXUAL CONDUCT

ALL CONTRACTORS, AGENTS AND VOLUNTEERS are required to report all known or suspected incidents of abuse and sexual conduct to a school administrator. Failure to report known or suspected incidents of abuse and sexual conduct may lead to termination of your contract with the District, termination of your right to volunteer with the District, and/or trespass from all school property and events.

APPROPRIATE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH STUDENTS

Policy JHFF/GBNAA requires that any electronic communications with students by a contractor, agent or volunteer for the district will be appropriate and only when directed by district administration. When communicating with students electronically regarding school-related matters, contractors, agents or volunteers shall use district e-mail using mailing lists and/or other internet messaging to a group of students rather than individual students or as directed by district administration. Texting or electronically communicating with a student through contact information gained as a contractor, agent or volunteer for the district is strongly discouraged.

ADDITIONAL PROHIBITIONS

If a school employee, contractor or agent knows or has reason to know that another school employee, contractor or agent has engaged in sexual conduct or abuse, the school employee, contractor or agent may not assist the other in obtaining a new job. This prohibition does not apply if the employee, contractor or agent knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was reported to the appropriate agency and was resolved, or the investigation remains ongoing after four years.

St. Helens School District 502

Code: JHFE-AR(1)
Adopted: 8/22/12
Revised/Readopted: 8/28/19; 2/26/20
Orig. Code: JHFE-AR(1)

Reporting of Suspected Abuse of a Child

Reporting

Any district employee having reasonable cause to believe that **any child** with whom the employee comes in contact has suffered abuse¹ shall orally report or cause an oral report immediately by telephone or otherwise to the local office of the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) or to a law enforcement agency within the county where the person making the report is at the time of their contact. Any district employee who has reasonable cause to believe that **any adult or student** with whom the employee is in contact has abused a child shall immediately report or cause a report to be made in the same manner to DHS or its designee or to the law enforcement agency within the county where the person making the report is located at the time of the contact pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 419.010.

Any district employee who has reasonable cause to believe that another district employee, contractor, agent, volunteer or student has engaged in abuse, or that a student has been subjected to abuse by another district employee, contractor, agent, volunteer or student shall immediately report such to the DHS or its designee or the local law enforcement agency pursuant to ORS 419B.015, and to the designated licensed administrator or alternate licensed administrator for their school building.

If known, the report shall contain the names and addresses of the child and the parents of the child or other persons responsible for the child's care, the child's age, the nature and extent of the suspected abuse, including any evidence of previous abuse, the explanation given for the suspected abuse, any other information that the person making the report believes might be helpful in establishing the possible cause of the suspected abuse and the identity of a possible perpetrator.

If the superintendent is the alleged abuser the report shall be submitted to the director of student services who shall refer the report to the Board chair.

A written record of the abuse report shall be made by the employee reporting the suspected abuse of a child and will include: name and position of the person making the report; name of the student; name and position of any witness; description of the nature and extent of the abuse, including any information which could be helpful in establishing cause of abuse and identity of the abuser; description of how the report was made (i.e., phone or other method); name of the agency and individual who took the report; date and time that the report was made; and name of person who received a copy of the written report.

The written record of the abuse report shall not be placed in the student's educational record. A copy of the written report shall be retained by the employee making the report and a copy shall be provided to the designee that received the report.

¹ Includes the neglect of a child; abuse is defined in ORS 419B.005.

When the designee receives a report of suspected abuse of a child by a district employee, and there is reasonable cause to support the report, the district shall place the district employee on paid administrative leave² and take necessary actions to ensure the student's safety. The employee shall remain on leave until DHS or law enforcement determines that the report is substantiated and the district takes the appropriate employment action, or cannot be substantiated or is not a report of abuse and the district determines that either 1) an employment policy was violated and the district will take appropriate employment action against the employee, or 2) an employment policy has not be violated and no action is required by the district against the employee.

When the designee receives a report of suspected abuse by a contractor, agent or volunteer, the district shall prohibit the contractor, agent or volunteer from providing services to the district. If the district determines there is reasonable cause to support the report of suspected abuse, the district shall prohibit the contractor agent or volunteer from providing services. The district may reinstate the contractor, agent or volunteer, and such reinstatement may not occur until such time as a report of suspected abuse has been investigated³ and a determination has been made by law enforcement or DHS that the report is unsubstantiated.

The written record of each reported incident of abuse of a child, action taken by the district and any findings as a result of the report shall be maintained by the district.

If, following the investigation, the district decides to take an employment action, the district will inform the district employee of the employment action to be taken and provide information about the appropriate appeal process. The employee may appeal the employment action taken through the appeal process provided by the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

If the district is notified that the employee decided not to appeal the employment action or if the determination of an appeal sustained the employment action, a record of the findings of the substantiated report and the employment action taken by the district will be placed in the records on the school employee maintained by the district. Such records created are confidential and not public records as defined in ORS 192.311, however the district may use the record as a basis for providing information required to be disclosed about a district employee under ORS 339.378(1). The district will notify the employee that information about substantiated reports may be disclosed to a potential employer.

Definitions

1. Oregon law recognizes these types of abuse:
 - a. Physical;
 - b. Neglect;
 - c. Mental injury;
 - d. Threat of harm;
 - e. Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

² The district employee cannot be required to use any accrued leave during the imposed paid administrative leave.

³ The district will investigate all reports of suspected abuse, unless otherwise requested by DHS or its designee or law enforcement pursuant to law.

2. “Child” means an unmarried person who is under 18 years of age.
3. A “substantiated report” means a report of abuse that a law enforcement agency or DHS determines is founded.

Confidentiality of Records

The name, address and other identifying information about the employee who made the report are confidential and are not accessible for public inspection.

Upon request from law enforcement or DHS the district shall immediately provide requested documents or materials to the extent allowed by state and federal law.

Failure to Comply

Any district employee who fails to report a suspected abuse of a child as provided by this policy and the prescribed Oregon law commits a violation punishable by law. A district employee who fails to comply with the confidentiality of records requirements commits a violation punishable by the prescribed law. If an employee fails to report suspected abuse of a child or fails to maintain confidentiality of records as required by this policy, the employee will be disciplined up to and including dismissal.

Cooperation with Investigator

The district staff shall make every effort in suspected abuse of a child cases to cooperate with investigating officials as follows:

1. Any investigation of abuse of a child will be directed by the DHS or law enforcement officials as required by law. DHS or law enforcement officials wishing to interview a student shall present themselves at the school office and contact the school administrator, unless the school administrator is the subject of the investigation. When an administrator is notified that the DHS or law enforcement would like to interview a student at school, the administrator must request that the investigating official fill out the appropriate form (See JHFE-AR(2) – Abuse of a Child Investigations Conducted on District Premises). The administrator or designee should not deny the interview based on the investigator’s refusal to sign the form. If the student is to be interviewed at the school, the administrator or designee shall make a private space available. The administrator or designee of the school may, at the discretion of the investigator, be present to facilitate the interview. If the investigating official does not have adequate identification the administrator shall refuse access to the student.

Law enforcement officers wishing to remove a student from the premises shall present themselves at the office and contact the administrator or designee. The officer shall sign the student out on a form to be provided by the school;

2. When the subject matter of the interview or investigation is identified to be related to suspected abuse of a child, district employees shall not notify parents;
3. The administrator or designee shall advise the investigator of any conditions of disability prior to any interview with the affected child;

4. District employees are not authorized to reveal anything that transpires during an investigation in which the employee participates, nor shall the information become part of the student's education records, except that the employee may testify at any subsequent trial resulting from the investigation and may be interviewed by the respective litigants prior to any such trial.

Nothing prevents the district from conducting its own investigation, unless another agency requests to lead the investigation or requests the district to suspend the investigation, or taking an employment action based on information available to the district before an investigation conducted by another agency is completed. The district will cooperate with agencies assigned to conduct such investigations.

St. Helens School District 502

Code: JHFF/GBNAA
Adopted: 2/26/20

Reporting Requirements for Suspected Sexual Conduct with Students

Sexual conduct by district employees, contractors¹, agents², and volunteers³ is not tolerated. All district employees, contractors, agents, and volunteers are subject to this policy.

“Sexual conduct,” means verbal or physical conduct or verbal, written or electronic communications by a school employee, a contractor, an agent or a volunteer that involve a student and that are sexual advances or requests for sexual favors directed toward the student, or of a sexual nature that are directed toward the student or that have the effect of unreasonably interfering with a student’s educational performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. “Sexual conduct” does not include touching that is necessitated by the nature of the school employee’s job duties or by the services required to be provided by the contractor, agent or volunteer, and for which there is no sexual intent.

“Student” means any person who is in any grade from prekindergarten through grade 12 or 21 years of age or younger and receiving educational or related services from the district that is not a post-secondary institution of education, or who was previously known as a student by the person engaging in sexual conduct and who left school or graduated from high school within 90 days prior to the sexual conduct.

Any district employee, contractor, agent or volunteer who has reasonable cause to believe that a student has been subjected to sexual conduct by another district employee, contractor, agent or volunteer, or that another district employee, contractor, agent or volunteer has engaged in sexual conduct with a student shall immediately report such suspected sexual conduct to the designated licensed administrator or the alternate designated licensed administrator for their school building. If the superintendent is the alleged perpetrator the report shall be submitted to the licensed administrator position title who shall report the suspected sexual conduct to the Board chair.

If an employee fails to report suspected sexual conduct or fails to maintain confidentiality of records, the employee will be disciplined up to and including dismissal.

When the designated licensed administrator receives a report of suspected sexual conduct by a district employee, contractor, agent or volunteer, the administrator will follow procedures established by the district and set forth in the district’s administrative regulation JHFF/GBNAA-AR - Suspected Sexual Conduct Report Procedures and Form. All such reports will be reported to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) or Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) as appropriate, for

¹ “Contractor” means a person providing services to the district under a contract in a manner that requires the person to have direct, unsupervised contact with students.

² “Agent” means a person acting as an agent for the district in a manner that requires the person to have direct, unsupervised contact with students.

³ “Volunteer” means a person acting as a volunteer for the district in a manner that requires the person to have direct, unsupervised contact with students.

investigation. The agency receiving a report will complete an investigation regardless of any changes in the relationship or duties of the person who is the alleged perpetrator.

When there is reasonable cause to support the report, a district employee suspected of sexual conduct shall be placed on paid administrative leave pending an investigation and the district will take necessary actions to ensure the student's safety.

When there is reasonable cause to support the report, a district contractor, agent or volunteer suspected of sexual conduct shall be removed from providing services to the district and the district will take necessary actions to ensure the student's safety.

The district will post in each school building the names and contact information of the employees designated for the school building to receive reports of suspected sexual conduct and the procedures the designee will follow upon receipt of the report.

The district will notify, as allowed by state and federal law, the person who was subjected to the suspected sexual conduct about any actions taken by the district as a result of the report.

A district employee, contractor or agent will not assist another district employee, contractor or agent in obtaining a new job if the individual knows, or has reasonable cause to believe the district employee, contractor or agent engaged in sexual conduct. Nothing in this policy prevents the district from disclosing information required by law or providing the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files pursuant to law.

The initiation of a report in good faith about suspected sexual conduct may not adversely affect any terms or conditions of employment or the work environment of the person who initiated the report or who may have been subject to sexual conduct. If a student initiates a report of suspected sexual conduct by a district employee, contractor, agent or volunteer in good faith, the student will not be disciplined by the district or any district employee, contractor, agent, or volunteer.

The district will provide to employees at the time of hire, or to a contractor, agent or volunteer at the time of beginning service for the district, the following:

1. A description of conduct that may constitute sexual conduct;
2. A description of the investigatory process and possible consequences if a report of suspected sexual conduct is substantiated; and
3. A description of the prohibitions imposed on district employees, contractors and agents when they attempt to obtain a new job, pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 339.378(2).

All district employees are subject to Board policy GCAB - Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media - Staff regarding appropriate electronic communications with students.

Any electronic communications with students by a contractor, agent or volunteer for the district will be appropriate and only when directed by district administration. When communicating with students electronically regarding school-related matters, contractors, agents or volunteers shall use district e-mail using mailing lists and/or other internet messaging to a group of students rather than individual students or

as directed by district administration. Texting or electronically communicating with a student through contact information gained as a contractor, agent or volunteer for the district is strongly discouraged.

The superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy and to comply with state law.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 419B.005 - 419B.045](#)

Senate Bill 155 (2019)

[ORS 339.370 - 339.400](#)

Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C. § 7926 (2018).

Cross Reference(s):

GBNAA/JHFF - Reporting Requirements for Suspected Sexual Conduct with Students

GCAB - Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media – Staff

JHFE - Reporting of Suspected Abuse of a Child