

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

Each school principal shall develop and implement an instructional program that will teach students:

- A. how to recognize the factors that may cause people to abuse others;
- B. how one may protect oneself from incurring abuse; and,
- C. what resources are available to assist an individual who encounters an abuse situation.

To facilitate such a program, staff development activities may include such topics as:

- Child growth and development
- Identification of child abuse and neglect
- Effects of child abuse and neglect on child growth and development
- Personal safety as it relates to potential child abuse and neglect
- Parenting skills
- Life situations/stressors which may lead to child maltreatment
- Substance abuse

Reporting Responsibilities

All staff (certificated and classified) are expected to report every instance of suspected child abuse or neglect. Since protection of children is the paramount concern, staff should discuss any suspected evidence with the principal, nurse or counselor regardless of whether the condition is listed among the indicators of abuse or neglect.

Staff are reminded of their obligation as district employees to report suspected child abuse, and professional staff are reminded of their legal obligations to make such reports. Staff are also reminded of their immunity from potential liability for so doing. The following procedures are to be used in reporting instances of suspected child abuse:

- A. When there is reasonable cause to believe that a student has suffered abuse or neglect, staff shall immediately contact the nearest office of the Child Protective Services (CPS) of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). If this agency cannot be reached, the report shall be submitted to the police, sheriff or prosecutor's office. Contact must be made within forty-eight (48) hours. Staff shall advise the principal regarding instances of suspected abuse or neglect and reports of suspected abuse that have been made to state authorities or law enforcement. In his/her absence, the report shall be made to the principal's designee.

A staff member may wish to discuss the circumstances with an employee of CPS to determine if a report should be made. The Child Protective Service has the responsibility for determining the fact of child abuse or neglect. Any doubt about the child's condition shall be resolved in favor of making the report.

B. A written report shall be submitted promptly to the agency to which the phone report was made. The report shall include:

1. the name, address and age of the child;
2. the name and address of the parent or person having custody of the child;
3. the nature and extent of the suspected abuse or neglect;
4. any evidence of previous abuse or any other information that may relate to the cause or extent of the abuse or neglect; and
5. the identity, if known, of the person accused of inflicting the abuse.

Child abuse as defined by the statutes can be inflicted “by any person” and may include student-on-student abuse. These cases also require reporting to CPS, DSHS or law enforcement. Child abuse in this and all other cases requires two elements. First, there must be injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent treatment or maltreatment. Second, there must be harm to the child’s health, welfare or safety.

ABUSE INDICATORS

Physical Abuse Indicators:

- A. Bilateral bruises, extensive bruises, bruises of different ages, patterns of bruises caused by a particular instrument (belt buckle, wire, straight edge, coat hanger, etc.).
- B. Burn patterns consistent with forced immersion in a hot liquid (a distinct boundary line where the burn stops), burn patterns consistent with a spattering of hot liquids, patterns caused by a particular kind of implement (electric iron, etc.) or instrument (circular cigarette burns, etc.).
- C. Lacerations, welts, abrasions.
- D. Injuries inconsistent with information offered by the child.
- E. Injuries inconsistent with the child’s age.
- F. Injuries that regularly appear after absence or vacation.

Emotional Abuse Indicators:

- A. Lags in physical development.
- B. Extreme behavior disorder.
- C. Fearfulness of adults or authority figures.
- D. Revelations of highly inappropriate adult behavior, i.e., being enclosed in a dark closet, forced to drink or eat inedible items.

Sexual Abuse Indicators:

Sexual abuse, whether physical injuries are sustained or not, is any act or acts involving sexual molestation or exploitation, including but not limited to incest, rape, carnal knowledge, sodomy or unnatural or perverted sexual practices. Indicators include:

- A. Child having difficulty sitting down.
- B. Child refusing to change into gym clothes (when he/she has been willing to change clothes in the past).
- C. Venereal disease in a child of any age.
- D. Recurrent urinary tract infections.
- E. Evidence of physical trauma or bleeding to the oral, genital or anal areas.
- F. Child wetting or soiling him or herself.
- G. Child running away from home and not giving any specific complaint about what is wrong at home.
- H. Pregnancy at 11 or 12 with no history of peer socialization.

NEGLECT INDICATORS**Physical Neglect Indicators:**

- A. Lack of basic needs (food, clothing, shelter).
- B. Inadequate supervision (unattended).
- C. Lack of essential health care and high incidence of illness.
- D. Poor hygiene on a regular basis.
- E. Inappropriate clothing in inclement weather.
- F. Abandonment.

Behavioral Indicators of All Kinds of Abuse/Neglect:

(NOTE: Behavioral indicators in and of themselves do not prove abuse has occurred. Together with other indicators they may warrant a referral.)

- A. Wary of adult contact.
- B. Frightened of parents.

- C. Afraid to go home.
- D. Habitually truant or late to school.
- E. Arrives at school early and remains after school later than other students.
- F. Wary of physical contact by adults.
- G. Shows evidence of overall poor care.
- H. Parents describe child as “difficult” or “bad”.
- I. Inappropriately dressed for the weather -- no coat or shoes in cold weather or long sleeves and high necklines in hot weather (possible hiding marks of abuse).
- J. Exhibit behavioral extremes: crying often or never, unusually aggressive or withdrawn and fearful.

Implemented:	March 17, 1986	North Thurston School District
Amended:	February 19, 1991	
	September 14, 1999	North Thurston School District
Updated:	October 4, 2010	North Thurston Public Schools
	January 12, 2017	North Thurston Public Schools
	April 26, 2021	North Thurston Public Schools
	June 20, 2023	(updated CA-1 Form)



North Thurston Public Schools
 305 College Street NE
 Lacey, Washington 98516-5390
 www.nthurston.k12.wa.us

Student Support Services
 Phone: (360) 412-4484
 Fax: (360) 412-4555

Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Form

CONFIDENTIAL

(Please Print or Type Form)

Student of Concern:

Name: _____ Birth Date _____
 Address _____
Street City Zip
 School: _____

Student's Parent/Guardian/Custodian:

Father/Guardian _____
 Telephone _____
Home Work
 Address _____
Street City Zip

Mother/Guardian _____
 Telephone _____
Home Work
 Address _____
Street City Zip

Nature and Extent of Suspected Abuse/Neglect: _____

(continue on back)

Names and Birth Dates of Siblings:

Name _____ Birth Date _____
 Name _____ Birth Date _____

Intake Worker: _____ **Agency Case Worker:** _____ **Phone** _____
Intake Case or Badge # _____

Name of Person to Whom Disclosure was made: _____

Person Completing Report: _____
Print name School

Signature Date

Principal Signature Date

Director of Student Support Signature Date

CPS:
1-866-764-2233 District Specific
 1-888-713-6115-after hours
 Local CPS: (360)725-6700
 Lacey Police: 459-4333
 Thurston Co. Sheriff: 786-5500
 Olympia Police: 704-2740
 Thurston Co. Prosecutor: 754-2899



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Nature and Extent of Suspected Abuse/Neglect (Cont.): _____
