

## SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT AND MALTREATMENT

The Board of Education recognizes that because of their sustained contact with school-aged children, employees are in an excellent position to identify abused, neglected or maltreated children and refer them for treatment and protection as required by the state's mandatory reporting system.

The purpose of mandatory reporting is to identify suspected abused, neglected and maltreated children as soon as possible, so that children determined by the appropriate agency to be abused, neglected or maltreated can be protected from further harm and, where appropriate, can be offered services to assist the child and/or family.

Pursuant to applicable law, any school official or employee who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or maltreatment will immediately report this to the building principal and will report the case to the New York State Child Abuse and Maltreatment Register, as required by law.

The report shall be made by telephone or by telephone facsimile machine on a form supplied by the Commissioner of Social Services. A written report shall be made within forty-eight hours to the appropriate local child protective service, and to the statewide Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment.

School employees and officials will not contact the child's family or any other person to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or maltreatment. It is not the responsibility of the school official or employee to prove that the child has been abused or maltreated.

Any school official or employee who has cause to suspect that the death of any child is a result of child abuse, neglect or maltreatment must report that suspicion to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner.

In accordance with the law, any employee who fails to report an instance of suspected child abuse, neglect or maltreatment may be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and may be held liable for the damages caused by the failure to report. The law grants employees and other persons who report instances of child abuse immunity in good faith from any liability that might otherwise be incurred.

The district will cooperate to the extent possible with authorized child protective services workers in investigations of alleged child abuse.

The school district shall maintain an ongoing training program which will address the identification and reporting of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment. Attendance at sessions of this training program shall be required of all district employees who come in contact with students. Attendance records shall be kept, and notations will be made in personnel files as to the dates of attendance. The Superintendent shall develop, with input from appropriate personnel, a plan for implementation of such a training program. In addition, a copy of this policy, along with the administrative regulations explaining the reporting requirements, shall be distributed to all members of the professional staff.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall prepare and implement all regulations as are necessary to accomplish the intent of this policy.

Cross-ref: 5330 Corporal Punishment  
5500 Student Records  
9620 Child Abuse in Educational Setting

Ref: Child Protective Services Act of 1973, Social Services Law §§411 et seq.  
Family Court Act §1012  
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g, 45 CFR §99.36  
Education Law §3209-a

Date Adopted: 12/7/04