

CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Consistent with the requirements of state law, Section 17a-101i (e) of the Connecticut General Statutes, it shall be the policy of LEARN that suspected cases of child abuse, neglect, and sexual assault, shall be appropriately reported by those employees who are required by state law to make such reports. Mandated reporters include all school employees, specifically the Superintendent, administrators, teachers, substitute teachers, guidance counselors, school counselors, paraeducators, coaches of intramural and interscholastic athletics, as well as licensed nurses, physicians, psychologists, social workers, and licensed behavior analysts, either employed by LEARN or working in LEARN schools or programs; or any other persons who, in the performance of their duties, have regular contact with students and who provide services to or on behalf of students enrolled in LEARN schools or programs.

Recognizing its responsibilities to protect children, and in compliance with its statutory obligations, LEARN shall provide in-service training, and all LEARN employees shall complete all mandated training and refreshers regarding the requirements and obligations of mandated reporters. Any person applying for employment with LEARN shall submit to a record check of the Department of Children and Families Child Abuse and Neglect Registry before the person may be hired. LEARN shall not employ any person whose employment contract was terminated or who resigned from employment following a suspension after the Commissioner of Children and Families found reasonable cause to believe that a child was abused or neglected and recommended that such person be placed on the Child Abuse and Neglect Registry, if such person is convicted of a crime involving an act of child abuse or neglect or sexual assault of a child. LEARN shall not employ any person whose employment contract was terminated or who resigned from employment if such person was convicted of failure to make a mandated report, regardless of whether an allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual assault was substantiated.

A confidential response team shall be established to coordinate with the Department of Children and Families to ensure prompt reporting of suspected abuse or neglect, or sexual assault; and to provide immediate access to information and individuals relevant to the Department's investigation. The confidential rapid response team shall consist of the Superintendent, a teacher, a local police officer and any other person appropriate to the team's mission.

LEARN shall not retaliate against any mandated reporter for compliance with the law and LEARN policy pertaining to the reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect.

The Executive Director shall establish regulations to ensure the reporting by personnel of suspected child abuse/neglect or children who are at-risk, as specified in the Connecticut General Statutes.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-220a In-service training. Professional development committees. Institutes for educators. Cooperating teacher program, regulations

10-221d Criminal history records check of school personnel. Fingerprinting. Termination or dismissal

10-221s Investigations of child abuse and neglect. Disciplinary action.

17a-28 Definitions. Confidentiality of and access to records; exceptions. Procedure for aggrieved persons. Regulations

17a-101 – 17a-101o Protection of children from abuse. (as amended by P.A. 24-41)

17a-106 Cooperation in relation to prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse/neglect.

10-151 Teacher Tenure Act

Policy Adopted: June 14, 1990

Revised: May 10, 2001

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LEARN