

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND REPORTING

The Governing Board is committed to supporting the safety and well-being of district students and desires to facilitate the prevention of and response to child abuse, assault, and neglect. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement strategies for preventing, recognizing, and promptly reporting known or suspected child abuse, assault, and neglect.

The Superintendent or designee may provide a student who is a victim of abuse with school-based mental health services or other support services and/or may refer the student to resources available within the community as needed.

The Superintendent or designee may collaborate with the county's child welfare, probation, mental health, public health, and sheriff's departments; juvenile court; and office of education, on intervention programs for students.

Child Abuse Prevention

The district's instructional program may provide age-appropriate and culturally sensitive child abuse prevention curriculum which explains students' right to live free of abuse, includes instruction in the skills and techniques needed to identify unsafe situations and react appropriately and promptly, informs students of available support resources, and teaches students how to obtain help and disclose incidents of abuse.

Any instructional program on child abuse may include annual instruction on sexual abuse and assault, and human trafficking prevention, including instruction on the prevalence and nature of abuse, including sexual abuse and assault and human trafficking, strategies to reduce risk, techniques to set healthy boundaries, and how to safely seek assistance. (Education Code 51950)

Additionally, the district's program may include age-appropriate instruction in sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention. (Education Code 51900.6, 51950)

Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall have the right to excuse their child from all or part of instruction regarding abuse, including sexual abuse, and human trafficking prevention education, and assessments related to that education, in accordance with law and Board policy. (Education Code 51950)

The Superintendent or designee may display posters, in areas on campus where students frequently congregate, notifying students of the appropriate telephone number to call to report child abuse or neglect. (Education Code 33133.5)

Additionally, student identification cards for students in grades 7-12 shall have printed on them the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-7233), and The Trevor Project's LGBTQ+ suicide hotline (1-866-488-7386, or by texting START to 678-678). In

addition, student identification cards of students in grades 7-12 may have printed on them a quick response (QR) code that links to the county's mental health resources website. (Education Code 215.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall, to the extent feasible, seek to incorporate community resources into the district's child abuse prevention programs and may use these resources to provide parents/guardians with instruction in parenting skills and child abuse prevention.

Child Abuse Reporting

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the identification and reporting of known and suspected child abuse and neglect in accordance with law.

Procedures for reporting child abuse, as specified in Penal Code 11164-11174.3, shall be included in the district and/or school comprehensive safety plan. (Education Code 32282)

District employees who are mandated reporters, as defined by law and administrative regulation, are obligated to report all known or suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training regarding the duties of mandated reporters as required by law and as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 44691; Penal Code 11165.7)