3.1 Child Abuse Policy and Prevention Procedures

Child Abuse Prevention:

 The District requires mandated reporting training for all school district employees within the first 6 weeks of each school year or within 6 weeks of employment.

 Volunteers and Board Members are also required to take the mandated reporting training.

- A "volunteer" is any person who of their own free will, provides services for the district without pay or compensation.
- A volunteer is any individual whose duties require contact or supervision of pupils and at a school district, county office of education, or charter school and whose failure to report known or suspected child abuse would result in criminal penalties.
- All Governing Board members shall complete annual, mandatory training provided or coordinated by the district. This training is essential for maintaining compliance with state law and ensuring the safety of students.

 The Mandated Reporter Training shall cover:

- **Comprehensive training** on the legal requirement to report suspected child abuse or neglect immediately to appropriate authorities (e.g., principal or designee, law enforcement, or county welfare department).
- **Child Abuse Prevention**: Training on recognizing signs of abuse, neglect, and grooming behaviors in children.
- **Professional Boundaries:** Clear policies and guidelines on appropriate interactions with students, including strict limitations on electronic communication (e.g., texting, social media messaging) unless a parent or guardian is included in the communication.

3.11 Cell Phone Policy

In alignment with California's Phone-Free School Act (AB 3216), the Board is committed to creating safe, focused, and engaging learning environments for all students.

Prohibited Use of Mobile Communication Devices
Students shall not use smartphones or other mobile communication devices while at a school site or under the supervision and control of a district employee only as permitted under this policy. During this time, devices must be turned off or set to silent, kept out of sight, and stored in a backpack, designated pouch, or other secure location. This policy applies to all students in grades TK–12.

However, a student shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a mobile communication device under any of the following circumstances: (Education Code 48901.5, 48901.7)

1. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger.

   a. When a student or parent/guardian identifies a safety concern, the school shall assess the concern using established safety protocols, which may include a threat assessment process, and may develop a safety and communication plan.

b. When a family identifies a safety concern related to a current or anticipated legal matter, school administration may establish a communication plan, including designated times or conditions for device access.
c. Students will be able to access their smartphones when staff deems it safe for emergency use.

2. When a teacher or administrator grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator.

3. When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being.

    a. When a student requires access to a personal smartphone or electronic device during the school day to manage a medical condition, the parent/guardian must provide documentation from the student's licensed healthcare provider supporting the need for the device. Upon receipt and review of this documentation, the school will determine whether the request for an exemption is approved or denied.

4. When the possession or use is required by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

    a. When a student's Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Plan identifies a documented need for the device to support the student's disability, such an exception must be explicitly stated within the student's IEP or 504 Plan.

The Superintendent or designee may undertake measures or strategies in accordance with law to limit student access to smartphones and other mobile communication devices on campus. (Education Code 48901.7)

Smartwatches, non-school-issued devices, and similar electronic devices shall be subject to the same restrictions during the instructional day.

Student Conduct and Discipline

Smartphones and other mobile communication devices shall not be used in any manner which infringes on the privacy rights of any other person.

A student's personal electronic device shall not be searched without the consent of the student's parent/guardian, except pursuant to a lawfully issued warrant, when a school official, in good faith, believes that an emergency involving danger of death or serious physical injury to the student or others requires access to the electronic device information, or when the search is otherwise permitted pursuant to Penal Code 1546.1.

When a student uses a mobile communication device in an unauthorized manner while at a school site or under the supervision and control of a district employee, the student may be disciplined, and the district employee may temporarily confiscate the device. The employee shall store the device securely until it is returned to the student or turned over to the principal or designee, as appropriate.

A student may also be subject to discipline, in accordance with law, Board policy, or administrative regulation, for off-campus use of a mobile communication device which poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property or substantially disrupts school activities.

Liability

The district will not be responsible or liable for a student's mobile communication device that is brought on campus or to a school activity and is lost, stolen, or damaged.

Policy Review

The Board shall review and, as necessary, update this policy at least once every five years. Any such review or update shall include significant stakeholder participation to ensure that the policy is responsive to the unique needs and desires of the school community.