

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 and neglect. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement strategies for preventing, recognizing, and promptly reporting known or suspected child abuse and neglect.

Employees of the district are directed to report known or suspected instances of child abuse in accordance with State law and District Administrative Procedure.

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.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Child Abuse Prevention

The district's instructional program shall include age-appropriate and culturally sensitive child abuse prevention curriculum. This curriculum shall explain students' right to live free of abuse, include instruction in the skills and techniques needed to identify unsafe situations and react appropriately and promptly, inform students of available support resources, and teach students how to obtain help and disclose incidents of abuse.

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)
(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

The district's program also may include age-appropriate curriculum in sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention. Upon written request of a student's parent/guardian, the student shall be excused from taking such instruction. (Education Code 51900.6)

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.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND REPORTING (continued)

District employees shall cooperate with the Child Protective Services (CPS) responsible for investigating and prosecuting cases within the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act.

(cf. 4119.21/4219.21/4319.21 - Professional Standards)
(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

Administrative Procedures for assisting employees in identifying and reporting child abuse shall be in conformity with the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act.

These procedures for reporting child abuse shall be included in the district and/or school comprehensive safety plan. (Education Code 32282)

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

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.

Training shall be provided for all certificated and classified personnel relating to identification of child abuse, the reporting requirements, and other matters deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND REPORTING (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32280-32288 *Comprehensive school safety plans*
33195 *Heritage schools, mandated reporters*
33308.1 *Guidelines on procedure for filing child abuse complaints*
44252 *Teacher credentialing*
44691 *Staff development in the detection of child abuse and neglect*
44807 *Duty concerning conduct of students*
48906 *Notification when student released to peace officer*
48987 *Dissemination of reporting guidelines to parents*
49001 *Prohibition of corporal punishment*
51220.5 *Parenting skills education*
51900.6 *Sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention*

PENAL CODE

152.3 *Duty to report murder, rape, or lewd or lascivious act*
273a *Willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment of child; endangering life or health*
288 *Definition of lewd or lascivious act requiring reporting*
11164-11174.3 *Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act*

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

15630-15637 *Dependent adult abuse reporting*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4650 *Filing complaints with CDE, special education students*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

11434a *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; definitions*

COURT DECISIONS

Camreta v. Greene (2011) 131 S.Ct. 2020

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve

Health Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve

WEB SITES

California Attorney General's Office, Suspected Child Abuse Report Form:

http://www.ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss_8572.pdf

California Department of Education, Safe Schools: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/ap>

California Department of Social Services, Children and Family Services Division:

<http://www.childsworld.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Information Gateway:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/can>