

454 REPORTING CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

Wisconsin law requires school District personnel to report all suspected incidents of child abuse and/or neglect to the designated social service or child protection agency or to another legal authority such as the police department.

As a social resource, the school is second only to the family unit in its potential for sustained, thorough involvement in a child's life. Because of this sustained contact, school personnel are in position to identify abused or neglected children and to refer them for treatment and protection.

To combat the child abuse and neglect problem and in compliance with state law, any District staff member having reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen in the course of professional duties has been abused or neglected or having reason to believe that a child has been threatened with abuse and that abuse will occur, shall contact one of the designated social service or child protection agencies and/or the police as outlined in the corollary procedures. Staff may consult with the principal or another administrator for assistance in the reporting process.

It is not the responsibility of school personnel to prove that the child has been abused or neglected, nor to determine whether the child is in need of protection. School personnel shall not contact the child's family or any other person to determine the cause of any suspected abuse or neglect.

No District employee shall be discriminated against or discharged from employment for making such a report. In addition, state law guarantees immunity from any civil or criminal liability that may result from making a report on child abuse or neglect. State law also provides for the protection of the identity of any individual who makes such a report.

All information pertaining to a suspect child abuse/neglect report shall be confidential and only shared with those individuals provided for under state law.

The Superintendent shall establish any necessary procedures to implement this policy and to comply with state law. The Superintendent will incorporate into the annual inservice program at least one session on the detection of indicators of child abuse or neglect.

Because failure to report is punishable by a fine and/or jail sentence, this policy shall annually be distributed as widely as possible by means such as posting, ~~or~~ publishing and/or at opening day inservice programs. It shall be included in all staff handbooks.

LEGAL REF.: Wisconsin Statutes Sections

48.02

48.981

118.01(2)(d)8

118.125

118.126

CROSS REF.:

454R: Child Abuse/Neglect Reporting: Procedures

347/347R: Maintenance and Confidentiality of Student Records: Guidelines

411.1/411.1R Student Sexual Harassment

APPROVED:

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REVISED:

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