
CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION

The District is committed to its responsibilities in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Therefore, the District schools will provide age-appropriate primary prevention programs at each of the three levels (elementary, middle and high) of the District schools. Primary prevention involves teaching children skills that can assist them in preventing their own victimization.

For the purpose of this Policy, “child abuse, neglect or exploitation” shall mean:

- 1) Inflicting physical injury on a child by other than accidental means, causing death, disfigurement, skin bruising, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function.
- 2) Creating a substantial risk of physical harm to a child’s bodily functioning.
- 3) Committing, or allowing to be committed, any sexual offense against a child as defined in the criminal code, or intentionally touching, either directly or through the clothing, the genitals, anus or breasts of a child for other than hygiene, child care or health care purposes.
- 4) Committing acts which are cruel or inhumane regardless of observable injury. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, instances of extreme discipline demonstrating a disregard of a child’s pain or mental suffering.
- 5) Assaulting or criminally mistreating a child as defined by the criminal code.
- 6) Failing to provide food, shelter, clothing, supervision or health care necessary to a child’s health or safety.
- 7) Engaging in actions or omissions resulting in injury to, or creating a substantial risk to the physical or mental health or development of a child.
- 8) Failing to take reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of the preceding actions.

Child abuse can include abuse by another minor and so may be included in incidents of student misconduct.

The Superintendent shall develop reporting procedures, including sample indicators of abuse and neglect, and shall disseminate the procedures to all staff. The purpose is to identify and report as soon as possible, to the proper authorities, all evidence of child abuse or neglect.

Professional staff are legally responsible for reporting all suspected cases of child abuse and neglect, and all staff are required to do so by the District. Under state law, staff are free from liability for reporting instances of abuse or neglect, and professional staff are criminally liable for failure to do so.

Staff need not verify that a child has in fact been abused or neglected. Any conditions or information that may reasonably be related to abuse or neglect should be reported. Legal authorities have the responsibility for investigating each case and taking such action as is appropriate under the circumstances.

Pursuant with State of Washington reporting directives, the intent of this policy is prompt notification of the proper social agency, thereby enabling protective services to be made available in an effort to prevent further abuse, and to safeguard and enhance the general welfare of children.



<i>CROSS REFERENCE</i>	<i>Policy 4310</i>	<i>Relations with the Law Enforcement and Child Protective Agencies</i>
<i>LEGAL REFERENCES</i>	<i>RCW 13.34.300</i>	<i>Failure to Cause Juvenile to Attend School as Evidence Under Neglect Petition</i>
	<i>RCW 26.44</i>	<i>Abuse of Children and Adult Dependent or Developmentally Disabled Person—Protection—Procedure</i>
	<i>RCW 26.44.202</i>	<i>Child Abuse—Definitions</i>
	<i>RCW 26.44.030</i>	<i>Reports—Duty and Authority to Make—Duty of Receiving Agency</i>
	<i>RCW 28A.230.080</i>	<i>Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect—Written Policy—Participation In and Establishment of Programs</i>
	<i>RCW 28A.620.010</i>	<i>Community Education Provisions—Purposes</i>
	<i>RCW 28A.620.020</i>	<i>Community Education Provisions—Restrictions</i>
	<i>RCW 43.43.830(6)</i>	<i>Background Checks—Access to Children or Vulnerable Persons</i>
	<i>WAC 388-15-130(3)</i>	<i>Definition of Child Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation</i>
	<i>AGO 1987, No. 9</i>	<i>Children—Child Abuse—Reporting by School Officials—Alleged Abuse by Student</i>
<i>MANAGEMENT RESOURCES</i>	<i>Policy News, June 1999</i>	<i>23% of Districts Out-of-Compliance on Child Abuse Policies</i>



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