
CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION

Child abuse, neglect and exploitation are violations of children's human rights and an obstacle to their educational development. The Board directs that staff will be alert for any evidence of such abuse, neglect or exploitation.

For purposes 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 will 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.

Classified and certificated staff are legally responsible for reporting all suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. A certificated or classified school employee who has knowledge or reasonable cause to believe that a student has been a victim of physical abuse or sexual misconduct by another school employee will report such abuse or misconduct to the appropriate school administrator. The administrator will report to the proper law enforcement agency if he or she has reasonable cause to believe that the misconduct or abuse has occurred as required under RCW 26.44.030. 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.

School staff will not make any student available for an investigative interview, with government officials, unless the child consents. If the child is under 12 years of age and the request is from

law enforcement officials, the law enforcement official must obtain parental consent, a court order, a warrant, or stipulate the existence of exigent circumstances.



<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>Relevance of Failure to Cause Juvenile to Attend School as Evidence Under Neglect Petition</i>
	<i>RCW 26.44.020</i>	<i>Child abuse--Definitions</i>
	<i>RCW 26.44.030</i>	<i>Reports—Duty and Authority to Make—Duty of Receiving Agency—Duty to Notify—Case Planning and Consultation—Penalty for unauthorized exchange of Information—Filing dependency Petitions—Investigations—Interviews of children—Records—Risk assessment process</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.320.160</i>	<i>Alleged sexual misconduct by school employee—Parental notification—Information on public records act</i>
	<i>RCW 28A.400.317</i>	<i>Physical abuse or sexual misconduct by school employees—Duty to report--Training</i>
	<i>RCW 28A.620.010</i>	<i>Community education provisions--Purposes</i>
	<i>RCW 28A.620.020</i>	<i>Community education provisions—Restrictions Classes on parenting skills and child abuse prevention encouraged</i>
	<i>RCW 43.43.830</i>	<i>Background Checks—Access to Children or Vulnerable Persons</i>
	<i>WAC 388-15-090</i>	<i>What is child abuse or neglect?</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</i>	<i>April 2010, Child Abuse Interviews at Schools</i>
	<i>Policy News</i>	<i>February 2007, Physical Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Notice Requirements</i>
	<i>Policy News</i>	<i>June 1999, 23% of Districts Out-of-Compliance on Child Abuse Policies</i>



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