

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND REPORTING

Child Abuse Prevention

The Board of Education recognizes the district's responsibility to educate students about the dangers of child abuse so that they will acquire the skills and techniques needed to identify unsafe situations and to react appropriately and promptly. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement strategies for preventing, recognizing, and promptly reporting known or suspected child abuse and neglect.

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)

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, inform them of available support resources, and teach them how to obtain help and disclose incidents of abuse. The curriculum also shall include training in self-protection techniques.

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

The Superintendent or designee shall seek to incorporate community resources into the district's child abuse prevention programs. To the extent feasible, the Superintendent or designee shall use these community resources to provide parents/guardians with instruction in parenting skills and child abuse prevention.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

Child Abuse Reporting

The Board recognizes that child abuse has severe consequences and that the district has a responsibility to protect students by facilitating the prompt reporting of known and suspected incidents of child abuse. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the identification and reporting of such incidents in accordance with law.

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

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)

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND REPORTING (continued)

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. Mandated reporters shall not investigate any suspected incidents but rather shall cooperate with agencies responsible for investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse and neglect.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training regarding the reporting duties of mandated reporters.

In the event that training is not provided to mandated reporters, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education the reasons that such training is not provided. (Penal Code 11165.7)

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*
11164-11174.4 *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>

Policy

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VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vacaville, California