

## **STUDENT PROTECTION FROM CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT**

When any school personnel has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect, s/he shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department of social and health services as provided in RCW 26.44.040. The report must be made at the first opportunity, but in no case longer than forty-eight (48) hours after there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has suffered abuse or neglect. The report must include the identity of the accused, if known.

Staff reporting child abuse or neglect shall take all necessary steps to preserve witness statements, documentation, and other evidence for the purpose of any follow-up investigation by a law enforcement agency or the department of social and health services. Any reasonable request by investigating authorities shall be met with complete and full cooperation by school staff.

The victim of any child abuse or neglect on campus shall receive appropriate medical care and follow-up. Counseling services shall be offered to the student, in consultation with the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). Students named in the child abuse or neglect report shall receive any necessary assistance to protect them from student reprisal, bullying, harassment or intimidation. During the course of the investigation or in any circumstance when an emergency measure is determined necessary to protect the health and safety of the victim or other student(s), temporary removal or re-assignment of the pertinent student(s) from a program or placement within the school shall be implemented in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations concerning change of placement, if applicable. Additional measures to protect the health and safety of the student shall be employed as deemed appropriate.

Child abuse incidents shall receive the necessary internal review and examination to ensure that procedures are employed to provide further protection to the victim and other preventative measures to reduce the likelihood of recurrence. An incident of student to student child abuse may include, but not be limited to, the following actions taken against the student aggressor: removing the aggressor from the school pursuant to federal and state laws and regulations concerning change of placement; increasing the level of supervision for the aggressor; or initiating other appropriate disciplinary action(s).

Subsequent to a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, the Superintendent, upon receipt of any recommended corrective actions by the department of social and health services, shall ensure that a written plan of action is implemented that

is designed to assure the continued health and safety of students and to provide for the prevention of future acts of abuse or neglect.

Legal Authority: RCW 72.40.200  
RCW 72.40.250

**Adoption Date: 12/09/04**