

Policy Type:	Operational Policy	
Policy Title:	Child Abuse-Neglect Reporting Policy	
Effective:	May 11, 2023	

Purpose:

Lakeview Academy support taking early protective measures towards allegations of child abuse by education personnel whose daily contact with children places them in a unique position to identify and refer suspected cases of abuse or neglect; and the role of all school employees in reporting and participating in investigations of suspected child abuse and neglect.

Definitions:

"Abused child" has the same meaning as defined in Subsection 76-5-109.

"DCFS" means the Utah Division of Child and Family Services.

"Neglected child" has the same meaning as defined in Subsection 76-5-109.

Policy:

1. Lakeview Academy employee shall cooperate with social service and law enforcement agency employees authorized to investigate charges of child abuse and neglect, including:
 - a. allowing appropriate access to students;
 - b. allowing authorized agency employees to interview children consistent with
 - c. DCFS and local law enforcement protocols;
 - d. making no contact with the parents or legal guardians of children being
 - e. questioned by DCFs or law enforcement authorities; and
 - f. maintaining appropriate confidentiality;
2. Lakeview Academy shall preserve the anonymity of those reporting or investigating child abuse or neglect; and
 - a. any school employee who knows or reasonably believes that a child has been neglected, or physically or sexually abused, shall immediately notify the nearest peace officer, law enforcement agency, or DCFS.
 - b. If a school employee reasonably suspects child abuse or neglect, it is not the responsibility of the school employee to prove that the child has been abused or neglected, or determine whether the child is in need of protection.
 - c. Investigation by education personnel prior to submitting a report should not go beyond that necessary to support a reason to believe that a reportable problem exists.

References: [80-2-602](#), [76-5-109](#), [R277-401](#)

Previous Versions: May 11, 2023

Reviewed: May 11, 2023

3. A school employee may notify school administration of suspected neglect or abuse, but any notification to school administration does not satisfy the employee's personal duty to report to law enforcement or DCFS.
4. Persons making reports or participating in an investigation of alleged child abuse or neglect in good faith are immune from any civil or criminal liability that otherwise might arise from those actions, as provided by law.
5. Lakeview Academy shall annually notify all employees of the employee's legal responsibility to report suspected child abuse or neglect to appropriate authorities as described in Section 62A-4a-403.

Certification:

Lakeview Academy Board of Trustees duly adopted this Child Abuse-Neglect Reporting Policy on May 11, 2022.

Signature: _____ Signature: _____

References: [80-2-602](#), [76-5-109](#), [R277-401](#)

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