

### 3A.06.003 Child Abuse Reporting Policy

#### Definitions

*Abuse* - this policy uses the definition of abuse found in Utah Code Ann. §78A-6-105(1)

*Neglect* - this policy uses the definition of neglect found in Utah Code Ann. §78A-6-105(25)

#### Board Policy:

Child Abuse Reporting Policy- The school shall distribute annually to all school employees copies of the School's procedures for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect and the School's Child Abuse-Neglect Reporting Form.

Any school employee who knows or reasonably believes that a child has been neglected, physically or sexually abused, shall immediately notify the director **and**, according to Utah Law, the nearest peace officer, law enforcement agency, or office of the State Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), **within 24 hours**.

#### School Policy:

1. When making the oral report, always have the person you notify identify himself/herself. The notified person's name shall be entered on the written report.
2. A copy of the written report shall be put in a Child Abuse-Neglect file to be maintained by the Director, for all reported cases of suspected child abuse or neglect.
3. The Child Abuse-Neglect Reporting form shall **not** be placed in the student's personal file.
4. It is **not** the responsibility of the Director or other school employees to prove that the child has been abused or neglected, or to determine whether the child is in need of protection.
5. To determine whether or not there is reason to believe that abuse or neglect has occurred, school staff may (but are not required to) gather information **only** to the extent necessary to determine whether a reportable circumstance exists. Investigation by staff prior to submitting a report shall not go beyond that which is necessary to support a reasonable belief that a reportable problem exists.
6. Interviews with the child or suspected abuser shall **not** be conducted by the director or school staff.
7. Notes of voluntary or spontaneous statements by the child shall be made and given to the investigating agency.
8. The Director, school employees, Division of Family Services and law enforcement personnel are required to preserve the anonymity of those making the initial report and any others involved in the subsequent investigation.
9. Investigations are the responsibility of the Division of Family Services.

[a] The Director or other school employees shall not contact the parents, relatives, friends, neighbors, etc. for the purpose of determining the cause of the injury and/or apparent neglect.

[b] School officials shall cooperate with social service and law enforcement agency employees authorized to investigate reports of alleged child abuse and neglect, assisting as asked as members of interdisciplinary child protection teams in providing protective diagnostic, assessment, treatment, and coordination services.

10. Persons making reports or participating in good faith in an investigation of alleged child abuse or neglect are immune from any civil or criminal liability that otherwise might arise from those actions.