

Child Abuse/Neglect

Code #454.00

The Tri-County Area School District recognizes that the most important role of the school in today's society is to provide students with the best possible opportunities for educational success. The District also recognizes that children who are abused and/or neglected not only are harmed physically and emotionally but also educationally. The District is committed to providing a positive environment within the school and assisting families and community child protection agencies to provide positive environments in the home and community. As a part of that commitment, the District requires its employees to report any threatened or suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with state law and established procedures. Staff shall be informed yearly of the laws governing the reporting of child abuse/neglect. Employees shall also be informed of the confidentiality provision of any statutes that pertain to reporting.

It is not the responsibility of school personnel to investigate child abuse and neglect or to prove that abuse or neglect has occurred. School personnel are only responsible for reporting suspected cases. Child Protective Services and/or law enforcement are responsible for investigating reports.

No District employee shall be discharged from employment for making a child abuse or neglect report. Further, state law provides for the protection of the identity of any individual who makes such a report and guarantees immunity from any civil or criminal liability that may result from making a report in good faith.

The District also believes in a positive and preventative approach toward child abuse and neglect. Therefore, the District endorses efforts toward making staff members more aware of the issues involved in child abuse and neglect through inservice programs. Protective behaviors instruction shall also be provided for students in the K-12 curriculum. It is hoped that through cooperation between home, school and other agencies, effective treatment can be provided to children and/or families.

Legal Reference: Sections 48.02 and 48.981 Wisconsin Statutes

Cross Reference: 454.00AR, Child Abuse/Neglect (Admin. Rule) - Procedures for Reporting

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