

**Protective Behaviors**

**Code # 457.00**

It is the Tri-County Area School District Board of Education's belief that children should be empowered with the adaptive skills necessary to prevent and cope with abusive and neglectful situations. Educators spend more time with children than any other professional group in society. Schools, through a coordinated, well-developed curriculum program, can most effectively ensure that appropriate information is provided to a large number of children of all ages.

A protective behaviors curriculum that begins with Pre-Kindergarten children and goes through high school must be particularly sensitive to the specific developmental needs of each age group with which it deals. In developing a program to address the problem of child abuse and neglect in society, the Board recognizes that the sensitive nature of the topic calls for a cooperative effort between parents/guardians, schools and community agencies.

The implementation of a protective behaviors program is directed at increasing awareness and prevention skills of all students. While parents/guardians and society have primary responsibility for child care, children also need to have information regarding individual safety in the home and the community.

In order for educators and the District to effectively implement a protective behaviors curriculum, school personnel must be knowledgeable about the subject. In-service will be provided by the District, not only prior to implementation of the curriculum, but also as an ongoing process.

The District's protective behaviors program shall be under the direction of the Human Growth and Development Committee.

**Legal Reference:** Section 118.01(2)(d) 8, Wisconsin Statutes

Prior Approval:	July 22, 2008
Attorney Review:	January 2016.
Approved:	February 24, 2016