

DRAFT UPDATE

Riverside School District 96

5:90

General Personnel

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

Any District employee who suspects or receives knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected child shall immediately report ~~such a case or cause a report to be made~~ to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services on its Child Abuse Hotline 800/25-ABUSE or 217/524-2606. The employee shall also promptly notify the Superintendent or Building Principal that a report has been made. The employee may also request the assistance of the Superintendent or Building Principal in making the report. The Superintendent shall be notified of any report made by a Building Principal. All District employees shall sign the *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form provided by the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the signed forms are retained.

The Superintendent shall execute the requirements in Board policy 5:150, *Personnel Records*, whenever another school district requests a reference concerning an applicant who is or was a District employee and was the subject of a report made by a District employee to DCFS.

The Superintendent shall notify the State Superintendent and the appropriate Intermediate Service Center in writing when he or she has reasonable cause to believe that a certificate holder was dismissed or resigned from the District as a result of an act that made a child an abused or neglected child. The Superintendent must make the report within 30 days of the dismissal or resignation and mail a copy of the notification to the certificate holder.

All District employees working with students shall participate in a meeting that specifically addresses and reviews the reporting requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

Each individual Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed Board meeting that a student may be an abused child as defined in the Act, direct or cause the Board to direct the Superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with the Act's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.

Remedies

A violation of this policy may result in a discipline up to and including discharge. Any person required by law to report child abuse and neglect who willfully fails to report is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. A teaching certificate may be suspended for willful failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect as required by law (105 ILCS 5/21-23).

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9.
20 ILCS 1305/1-1 et seq.
20 ILCS 2435/.
325 ILCS 5/.

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the Board of Education), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews)

ADOPTED: April 20, 2010

REVISED: April 19, 2011

Comment [AKL1]: The policy is updated to reflect the exact language from the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

NOTE: School personnel are granted broad immunities against civil and criminal claims when they file a report of abuse or neglect in good faith, even if it proves groundless. Such immunities are not available, however, to the individual who knowingly files a false report. Knowingly transmitting a false report to DCFS is a Class 4 felony (325 ILCS 5/4, 7 and 7.6, amended by P.A. 97-189).

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