CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

The Board of Education recognizes that child abuse is a societal problem. It further recognizes that all district personnel have a moral obligation (and certified personnel have a legal obligation as well) to immediately report instances of suspected child abuse to the proper authorities.

No district personnel will be held liable who, in good faith, reports such alleged incidents of child abuse.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations regarding the procedures to be followed in the reporting of child abuse.

The Superintendent shall develop and implement a program for training district employees in the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect. This training shall be conducted in accordance with Title 47.17 of Alaska Statutes. All district employees shall receive this training, including those who are not otherwise required by law to report child abuse or neglect.

District employees who are required by AS 14.70.020 to report child abuse or neglect shall make the report required under the law. All other district personnel shall report suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with procedures established by the Superintendent.

In addition, criminal penalties can be imposed on any employee who has a duty under AS 47.17 to make a report and who fails to make a required report. Additionally, any employee who violates this policy will be subject to employment sanctions or discipline.

Note: AS 14.08.111 and AS 14.14.090 require districts to provide mandatory reporters training in the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Pursuant to AS 47.17.020, teachers, school administrators, and paid athletic coaches are mandated to report child abuse and neglect.

With concern for the well-being of each student, teachers, school administrators, and paid athletic coaches shall be trained on the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect in accordance with state law. District employees shall cooperate with the child protective agencies responsible for reporting, investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse.

Note: Many school employees may encounter child abuse and neglect. The following optional language expands the number of school employees offered training in child abuse recognition and reporting. It may be revised or deleted as desired.

In addition to the required training provided above, the Superintendent or designee may invite classified personnel who have regular contact with students to participate in child abuse and neglect training. Classified personnel should immediately report instances of suspected child abuse or neglect to the site administrator.

Note: Pursuant to AS 47.17.068, failing to report child abuse or neglect mandated by law is a misdemeanor if the person knew or should have known that circumstances gave rise to the need for a report.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES
14.08.111 Duties (Regional school boards)
14.14.090 Additional duties
47.17.010-47.17.070 Child protection

SITKA SCHOOL DISTRICT
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