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Statement of.....

Policy and Responsibility

SUBJECT: CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

Reporting Requirements

In compliance with the Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting Requirements (Section 62A-4a-403), Utah Code Annotated, and with the Mandatory Reporting of Physical or Sexual Abuse of Students by an Educator (Section 53A-6-502), Utah Code Annotated, it is the policy of the district that any school employee who knows or has reason to believe that a child has been neglected, or physically or sexually abused, shall report or cause reports to be made in accordance with Utah State Law and with the district's procedures.

School employees are immune from any civil and/or criminal liability when reporting in good faith suspected child abuse or neglect, as provided by law. The anonymity of the reporting employee will be preserved according to law. Any person who willfully fails to report suspected abuse, neglect, fetal alcohol syndrome, or fetal drug dependency is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. It is not the responsibility of the school employee to prove that the child has been abused or neglected, or to determine whether the child is in need of protection. Investigations are the responsibility of DCFS. Investigation by educational personnel prior to submitting a report should not go beyond that necessary to support a reason to believe that a reportable problem exists. School employees are directed to cooperate with appropriately with law enforcement and DCFS investigators who come into the school, including:

- a. allowing authorized representatives to interview children consistent with DCFS and local law enforcement protocols;
- b. allowing appropriate access to student records;
- c. making no contact with parents/legal guardians of children being questioned by DCFS or local law enforcement; and
- d. cooperating with ongoing investigations and maintaining appropriate confidentiality.

In accordance with state law, the school employee will:

1. Make an immediate report by phone to the NEAREST PEACE OFFICER, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, OR THE DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES.
2. Notify the principal as soon as possible after the report has been made.

3. Complete the written District Child Abuse-Neglect Reporting Form which will be signed by the principal and delivered to the Director of Personnel and Student Services within 24 hours.

The school district shall review this policy and provide training to employees on an annual basis.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

In compliance with Utah Code Annotated (Section 53A-13-112) the District will provide training and instruction, utilizing instructional materials approved by the State Board of Education, on child sexual abuse prevention and awareness to:

- I. all school personnel in elementary and secondary schools on:
 - a. responding to a disclosure of child sexual abuse in a supportive, appropriate manner; and
 - b. the mandatory reporting requirements as described in this policy.
- II. parents or guardians of elementary school students on;
 - a. recognizing warning signs of a child who is being sexually abused; and
 - b. effective, age-appropriate methods for discussing the topic of child sexual abuse with a child.
- III. elementary school students using age-appropriate curriculum provided the parent or guardian of the student has:
 - a. been notified in advance of the instruction and the content of the instruction; and of their right to have the student excused from the instruction upon written request
 - b. been given an opportunity to review the instructional materials before the instruction occurs; and is allowed to be present when the instruction is delivered.