

8462 REPORTING POTENTIALLY MISSING OR ABUSED OR NEGLECTED CHILDREN

The Board of Education ~~is concerned with the physical and mental well-being of the children of this district, and recognizes the importance of early identification in halting child abuse and/or neglect. In recognition of the importance of~~ early detection of missing, abused, or neglected children. In recognition of the importance of early detection of missing, abused, or neglected children, the Board of Education adopts this Policy pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-24 and 18A:36-25. The Board provides this Policy for its employees, volunteers, or interns to provide for the early detection of missing, abused, or neglected children through notification of, reporting to, and cooperation with the appropriate law enforcement and child welfare authorities pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-24 and 18A:36-25 et seq., N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1, and N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10. ~~The Board of Education directs the Superintendent to promulgate policies and procedures for reporting child abuse.~~

Employees, volunteers, or interns working in the school district shall immediately notify designated child welfare authorities of incidents of alleged missing, abused, and/or neglected children. Reports of incidents of alleged missing, abused, or neglected children shall be reported to the New Jersey State Central Registry (SCR) at 1-877 NJ ABUSE or to any other telephone number designated by the appropriate child welfare authorities. If the child is in immediate danger a call shall be placed to 911 as well as to the SCR.

The person having reason to believe that a child may be missing or may have been abused or neglected may inform the Principal or other designated school official(s) prior to notifying designated child welfare authorities if the action will not delay immediate notification. The person notifying designated child welfare authorities shall inform the Principal or other designated school official(s) of the notification, if such had not occurred prior to the notification. Notice to the Principal or other designated school official(s) need not be given when the person believes that such notice would likely endanger the reporter or student involved or when the person believes that such disclosure would likely result in retaliation against the student or in discrimination against the reporter with respect to ~~his or her~~their employment.

The Principal or other designated school official(s) upon being notified by a person having reason to believe that a child may be missing or may have been abused or neglected, must notify appropriate law enforcement authorities. Notification to appropriate law enforcement authorities shall be made for all reports by employees, volunteers, or interns working in the school district. Confirmation by another person is not required for a school district employee, volunteer, or intern to report the suspected missing, abused, or neglected child situation.

School district officials will cooperate with designated child welfare and law enforcement authorities in all investigations of potentially missing, abused, or neglected children in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1(a)5.

The Board will delegate, annually, a staff member as the school district's liaison to designated child welfare authorities to act as the primary contact person between the school district and child welfare authorities with regard to general information sharing and the development of mutual training and other cooperative efforts. The District designates the Superintendent or designee as the school district's liaison to law enforcement authorities to act as the primary contact person between the school

district and law enforcement authorities, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)1, consistent with the Memorandum of Agreement, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)13.

OPERATIONS  
8462/page 2 of 2  
Reporting Potentially Missing or  
Abused or Neglected Children  
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~~The Board and administration will release, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5(e)12 pupil records of students referred to the agency responsible for protective and investigative services to students the child(ren) under investigation that are deemed to be relevant to the assessment or treatment of child abuse and/or neglect. School district records of child abuse and/or neglect shall be kept confidential and disclosed only as prescribed by N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10a., N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19, and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5.~~

An employee, volunteer, or intern working in the school district who has been named as a suspect in a notification to child welfare and law enforcement authorities regarding a missing, abused, or neglected child situation shall be entitled to due process rights, including those rights defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1(a)9. ~~The Superintendent may temporarily reassign or, with the concurrence of the Board President, suspend the employee pending investigation.~~

~~Information regarding allegations of child abuse and/or neglect reported to, investigated and reported upon by designated child welfare authorities about a school employee shall be confidential and may be disclosed only as required in order to cooperate with the child welfare authority's investigations or by court order. These records shall be maintained in a secure place and be accessible to the Superintendent and/or his/her designee.~~

The Superintendent or designee shall provide training to school district employees, volunteers, or interns on the district's policy and procedures for reporting allegations of missing, abused, or neglected child situations. All new school district employees, volunteers, or interns working in the district shall receive the required information and training as part of their orientation.

There shall be no reprisal or retaliation against any person who, in good faith, reports or causes a report to be made of a potentially missing-, abused-, or neglected-child situation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.13.

~~Any employee, volunteer, or intern with reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a student has attempted or completed suicide, shall report the information to the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in a form and manner prescribed by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 30:9A-24.a.~~

N.J.S.A. ~~9:6-90.10~~; 18A:36-24; 18A:36-25 et seq.  
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1; ~~6A:32-7.5~~

~~Initial~~ Previous Adoptions: January 23, 2006 & March 10, 2018

First Reading: ~~February 20, 2018~~ April 29, 2019  
Second Reading: ~~March 10, 2018~~ May 13, 2019  
Latest Adoption: ~~March 10, 2018~~