

## REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

Any teacher or other school employee who suspects that a child under 18 years of age has been neglected or physically abused (including sexual or emotional abuse) by a parent or other person, will promptly report this information to the building principal or superintendent. The principal or superintendent will immediately report this information to the state's attorney, the department of social services, the county sheriff, or the city police. If the principal or superintendent does not confirm to the teacher or other employee within 24 hours that action has been initiated, the employee will report this information directly to the proper authorities.

The report will contain the following information: name, address, and age of child; name and address of parent or caretaker; nature and extent of injuries or description of neglect; and any other information that might help establish the cause of injuries or condition.

School employees, including administrators, will not contact the child's family or any other persons to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect. It is not the responsibility of the school employees to investigate or prove that the child has been abused or neglected, or to determine whether the child is in need of protection, but only to report their good faith suspicions of abuse or neglect.

Anyone who participates in making a report in accordance with the law and in good faith is immune from any civil or criminal liability that may otherwise arise from the reporting, or from any resulting judicial proceeding, even if the suspicion is proved to be unfounded.

Failure to make a report where abuse or neglect is suspected is itself a serious crime.

Adoption date: August 12, 1996

Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_

Amended: 2007, 2014