

NORTH RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT #200

BOARD POLICY

NO. 3421

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Because child abuse and neglect are both a violation of children's human rights and an obstacle to their educational development, the board directs that staff be alert for any evidence of such abuse or neglect. For purpose of this policy, "child abuse or neglect" shall mean the injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by any person under circumstances which indicate that the child's health, welfare, and safety is harmed. The district shall also encourage staff to participate in in-service programs that deal with the issues surrounding child abuse.

The superintendent shall develop reporting procedures, including sample indicators of abuse and neglect, and shall disseminate the procedures to all staff. The purpose is to identify and report as soon as possible to the proper authorities all evidence of child abuse or neglect.

Staff need not verify that a child has in fact been abused or neglected. Any conditions or information that may reasonably be related to abuse or neglect should be reported. Legal authorities have the responsibility for investigating each case and taking such action as is appropriate under the circumstances.

Cross Reference:	Board Policy 4411	Relations with the Law Enforcement and Child Protective Agencies
Legal References:	RCW 26.44.030	Reports--Duty and authority to make --Duty of receiving agency
	RCW 28A.58.246	Community education provisions --Purposes
	RCW 28A.58.247	Community education provisions --Restrictions

Adopted: September 11, 1991