

## **BOARD POLICY**

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

---

Students

5141.6 - BP

### **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING**

The Board of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District recognizes that child abuse and neglect are serious and pervasive social problems causing suffering and emotional distress in children from all neighborhoods, economic levels, religions, and races. Further, the board views prevention of child abuse, and intervention on behalf of children already subjected to serious neglect, physical or sexual abuse, as vital to the welfare of students within the school district. Other than parents, school personnel have the most consistent and ongoing contact with school-age children. As such, they are in the most advantageous position to recognize possible instances of abuse and neglect, and initiate help for abuse victims.

School employees, therefore, have a critical responsibility in the identification of instances of suspected child abuse, and in the reporting of these instances to the proper agency. The protection of a child is a moral as well as legal responsibility of all school personnel.

Per California Legislation and Penal Code, mandated reporters include, but are not limited to, teachers; instructional aides; teacher's aides or assistants; classified employees; certificated pupil personnel employees; administrative officers or supervisors of child attendance; athletic coaches, administrators, and directors; administrators and employees of a licensed child day care facility; Head Start teachers, district police or security officers; licensed nurses or health care providers; and administrators, presenters, and counselors of a child abuse prevention program. These individuals identified as mandated reporters shall report all suspected or known instances of child abuse and neglect. It shall be the policy, therefore, of the board, in keeping with its commitment to the safety, health and welfare of all students, that all mandated reporters shall report all known or suspected instances of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect of children under the age of 18 years, in accordance with district administrative regulations. Moreover, this reporting obligation shall be extended to the suspected abuse of developmentally disabled adults.

It is the intent of the board to insure that all classified and certificated staff members are familiar with the causes, types and symptoms of child abuse and neglect. Further, all school employees shall be aware of their legal obligations and liabilities regarding child abuse reporting as well as appropriate reporting procedures. To that end, within the first six weeks of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall provide training on mandated reporting requirements to district employees and persons working on their behalf who are mandated reporters. Any school personnel hired during the school year shall receive such training within the first six weeks of employment.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Education Code Section 48906, 44691  
California Penal Code Sections 11165-11174  
Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 305, 15630

Policy adopted: 6/9/86  
Policy revised: 5/19/15