

Multnomah Education Service District

Code: **JHFE**
Adopted: 9/20/94
Revised/Readopted: 12/20/05; 6/15/10; 12/20/11;
2/19/13

Reporting of Suspected Abuse of a Child

Any MESD employee who has reasonable cause to believe that any child with whom the employee has come in contact has suffered abuse or neglect, as defined in state law, will immediately notify the Oregon Department of Human Services or the local law enforcement agency. The employee shall also immediately inform his/her supervisor, building administrator or chief program officer.

Abuse of a child by MESD employees or by a student will not be tolerated. All MESD employees are subject to this policy and the accompanying administrative regulation. If an MESD employee is a suspected abuser, reporting requirements remain the same. MESD shall designate the Superintendent to receive reports of abuse of a child by MESD employees and specify the procedures to be followed upon receipt of a abuse report. In the event the designated person is the suspected abuser, the Chief Operating Officer shall receive the report of abuse.

MESD shall post in each school building the name and contact information of the person designated to receive child abuse reports, as well as the procedures the Superintendent shall follow upon receipt of a report. When the Superintendent takes action on the report, the person who initiated the report shall be notified.

A substantial report of abuse by an employee shall be documented in the employee's personnel file. A substantial report of abuse by a student shall be documented in the student's education record.

Upon request, MESD shall provide records of investigations of suspected abuse of a child by an MESD employee or former MESD employee to law enforcement, Department of Human Services or Teacher Standards and Practices Commission.

Any MESD employee participating in good faith in the making of a report, pursuant to this policy and Oregon law and who has reasonable grounds for making a report, shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed with respect to the making or content of any such report. Further, the initiation of a report in good faith about suspected child abuse shall not adversely affect any terms or conditions of employment or the work environment of the person making the report. If a student in good faith initiates a report of suspected abuse of a child by an MESD employee or a student, the student shall not be disciplined by the Board or any MESD employee. Intentionally making a false report of abuse is a Class A violation.

MESD shall establish written procedures to provide annual training for:

1. MESD staff in the prevention and identification of abuse and on the obligations of MESD employees under ORS 419B.005, as directed by Board Policy, to report suspected abuse of a child;

2. Parents and legal guardians of students attending MESD schools on the prevention and identification of abuse of a child, and the obligation of MESD employees to report suspected abuse, separate from MESD staff training; and
3. Training designed to prevent abuse of a child available to students attending MESD operated schools.

The Superintendent and Cabinet shall implement such regulations and procedures as are necessary to accomplish the intent of this policy and to comply with state law.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 339.370](#) to-339.400

[ORS 419B.005](#) to-419B.050

HB 4016 (2012)

[ORS 418.746](#) to-418.751

[OAR 581-022-0711](#)

Greene v. Camreta, 588 F.3d 1011 (9th Cir. 2009), vacated in part by, remanded by Camreta v. Greene, 131 S. Ct. 2020 (U.S. 2011); vacated in part, remanded by Greene v. Camreta 661 F. 3d 1201 (9th Cir. 2011)

MESD Policy Cross Reference(s):

GBL - Personnel Records

GBM - Staff Complaints

GCL - Staff Development

GCPD - Discipline and Dismissal of Employees

II/IIA - Instructional Resources/Instructional Materials

IJ - Guidance Program

JA/JAA - Student Policies, Goals and Objectives

KK - Visitors to District Facilities**

KLD - Public Complaints about MESD Personnel