

Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse

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

Child abuse by WESD employees will not be tolerated. All WESD employees are subject to this policy and the accompanying administrative regulation. If a district employee is a suspected abuser, reporting requirements remain the same. The WESD will designate the Director of Human Resources to receive reports of child abuse by WESD employees and specify the procedures to be followed upon receipt of a child abuse report. The WESD will 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 Director of Human Resources will follow upon receipt of a report. When the Director of Human Resources takes action on the report, the person who initiated the report must be notified.

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

Any WESD employee participating in good faith in the making of a report, pursuant to this policy and Oregon law and who has reasonable grounds for the making thereof, 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 may not adversely affect any terms or conditions of employment or the work environment of the complainant. If a student initiates a report of suspected child abuse by a WESD employee in good faith, the student will not be disciplined by the Board or any WESD employee. Intentionally making a false report of child abuse is a Class A violation.

The WESD shall establish written procedures to provide annual training: 1) for WESD staff in the prevention and identification of child abuse and on the obligations of WESD employees under ORS 419B.005 as directed by Board policy to report suspected child abuse; 2) for parents and legal guardians of students attending district schools on the prevention, identification of child abuse and the obligation of WESD employees to report suspected child abuse, separate from WESD staff training; and 3) training designed to prevent child abuse available to students attending ESD operated schools.