

Reporting of Suspected Abuse of a Child

Any WESD 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, by any adult or by a student with whom the employee 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.

Abuse of a child by WESD employees or by students 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 abuse of a child by WESD employees and specify the procedures to be followed upon receipt of an abuse report. In the event the designated person is the suspected abuser the superintendent shall receive the report of abuse. 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.

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, the WESD shall provide records of investigations of suspected abuse of a child 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 abuse of a child by a WESD employee or a student, 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 abuse of a child and on the obligations of WESD employees under ORS 419B.005 as directed by Board policy to report suspected abuse of a child; 2) for parents and legal guardians of students attending district schools on the prevention, identification of abuse of a child and the obligation of WESD employees to report suspected abuse of a child, separate from WESD staff training; and 3) training designed to prevent abuse of a child available to students attending ESD-operated schools.

The Superintendent shall implement such regulations 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)

Cross Reference(s):

JHFF - Reporting Requirements Regarding Sexual Conduct with Students