6Gx53-8.013 CHILD ABUSE:

When child abuse (including abandonment and or neglect) is suspected by school personnel, the state law and School Board policy require the following procedures be followed:

I. Reporting Responsibility: The suspected child abuse must be reported immediately by the employee who suspects the abuse by calling the Child Abuse Hotline 1-800/962-2873 (the principal's permission to report child abuse is not required).

II. Report Contents: The report should include the following information:

A. The name of the employee reporting the abuse (the HRS form 1292, Confirmation of Verbal Report of Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation for Mandated Reporters is no longer required).

B. The name and address(es) of the child(ren) and his, her or their parents or guardian, (if known).

C. The age of the child(ren) and the names and age of sibling(s), (if known).

D. The nature and extent of the alleged abuse.

E. Other helpful information.

III. Reporting Procedures:

A. The reporter shall document the date and time the report was made.

B. The school principal shall be notified immediately following the report (the reporter may use the anonymous reporting form found in Appendix O of the Pupil Progression Plan).

C. The reporter shall NOT attempt an investigation.

D. School employees shall NOT examine portions of a child's body covered by clothing.

E. School employees shall NOT call the parent or guardian.

F. If a Florida Department of Children and Families (formerly HRS) Child Abuse investigator/worker interviews, observes or examines a

child at school with regard to suspected child abuse, school personnel will not take part in the interview unless the Florida Department of Children and Families investigator/worker and the child agree.

IV. Cross Reference: For further information refer to the Student Services Manual.

Statutory Authority: Florida Statutes 1001.32, 1001.41, 1001.42, 1001.43

Law Implemented: Florida Statute 1006.061

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