

# **MARSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **SERIES 400 STUDENTS**

454

### **REPORTING CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT**

The district recognizes that the most important role of the school in today's society is to provide students with the best possible opportunities for educational success. The district also recognizes that children who are abused and/or neglected not only are harmed physically and emotionally, but also educationally. The district is committed to providing a positive environment within the school and assisting families and community child protection agencies to provide positive environments in the home and community as well.

The district is aware of its role in the identification and referral of cases of suspected child abuse and neglect. Any school employee who suspects that a child seen in the course of professional duties has been physically, sexually, emotionally or otherwise abused, neglected or threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect will occur, shall report this to the appropriate authorities and his/her building principal or the principal's designee in accordance with established procedures. The building principal or his/her designee shall follow up all such reports in accordance with established procedures.

It is not the responsibility of school personnel to prove that the child has been abused or neglected or threatened with abuse or neglect, nor to determine whether the child is in need of protection. School personnel shall not contact the child's family or any other person to determine the cause of any suspected abuse or neglect or threatened abuse or neglect.

No district employee shall be discharged from employment for making a child abuse or neglect report. In addition, state law guarantees immunity from any civil or criminal liability that may result from making a report on child abuse or neglect. State law also provides for the protection of the identity of any individual who makes such a report.

This policy and its accompanying administrative rule shall annually be distributed as widely as possible to staff by means such as posting or publishing and shall be included in the employee handbook.

Legal Reference: Section 48.981 Wisconsin Statutes

Cross Reference: Administrative Rule 454, Child Abuse/Neglect Reporting and Follow-Up Procedures

Date of Adoption: July 11, 1996

Date of Revision: October 18, 2006