

**STUDENTS**

**Child Abuse Prevention Programs**

Every child has the right to live free of physical and emotional abuse, including neglect and sexual assault. The Superintendent recognizes that such abuse has severe consequences for the child. Schools are in a position to promote the prevention and the reduction of the general vulnerability of children.

The Superintendent's designee shall seek to incorporate community resources into schools' child abuse prevention programs. To the extent feasible, the Superintendent or designee shall also use these community resources to provide parents/guardians with instruction in parenting skills and child abuse prevention. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall represent schools on the countywide Child Abuse Council.

Parents/guardians shall receive prior notice of child abuse prevention instruction whenever such instruction will include family life or sex education for which notification is required by law.

**Child Abuse and Neglect (Reporting Procedures)**

With concern for the well-being of each student, the Superintendent directs the employees of the County Office of Education to report known or suspected incidences of child abuse in accordance with state law and County Office of Education regulations. County Office of Education employees shall cooperate with the child protective agencies responsible for reporting, investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse.

This policy and regulation apply to all certificated employees, and any other employees designated by law as a "child care custodian" or "health practitioner" as defined by state law, and employees who have received training/instruction in their duties to report child abuse.

The Superintendent shall provide training in child abuse identification and reporting for all certificated personnel who come into contact with students.

All employees trained in child abuse identification and reporting shall be given, as a part of that training, written notice of the child abuse reporting requirements and the employees' confidentiality rights.

Employees who work with dependent adults shall be provided with appropriate notification of legal responsibilities and reporting procedures pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 15630 et seq.

In order to reduce or eliminate unfounded child abuse accusations directed at school employees, child abuse inservice training shall include guidelines for maintaining ethical relationships with students and for disciplining students.

Legal Reference: Next Page

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

33308.1 Guidelines; procedure for filing child abuse complaints

44690 et seq. Staff development in the detection of child abuse and neglect

48906 Notification of parent, guardian, or relative of release of pupil to police officer;  
procedure for victims of suspected child abuse

48987 Guidelines for filing complaint of child abuse

PENAL CODE

273 a Willful harm or injury to a child; endangering person or health

11164-11174.3 Child abuse and neglect reporting act

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

300 et seq. Dependent children - jurisdiction

15630 et seq. Mandatory and nonmandatory reports of abuse

CDE LEGAL ADVISORIES

328.9 Duties and Liabilities of School Counselors

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

18975-18979 The Maxine Waters Child Abuse Prevention Training Act of 1984