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District Policy

8462- REPORTING POTENTIALLY MISSING OR ABUSED CHILDREN (M)

Section: Operations
Date Created: December, 2011
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The Board of Education recognizes early detection of missing, **abused**, or neglected **children** is important in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of all **children**. In recognition of the importance of early detection of missing, **abused**, or neglected **children**, the Board of Education adopts this Policy pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:36-25. The Board provides this Policy for its employees, volunteers, or interns to provide for the early detection of missing, **abused**, or neglected **children** through notification of, **reporting** to, and cooperation with the appropriate law enforcement and **child** welfare authorities pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-25 and N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10.

Employees, volunteers, or interns working in the school district shall immediately notify designated **child** welfare authorities of incidents of alleged missing, **abused**, and/or neglected **children**. Reports of incidents of alleged missing, **abused**, or neglected **children** shall be reported to the New Jersey State Central Registry (SCR) at 1-877 NJ **ABUSE**. If the **child** is in immediate danger a call shall be placed to 911 as well as to the SCR.

The person having reason to believe that a **child** may be missing or may have been **abused** or neglected may, prior to notifying designated **child** welfare authorities, inform the Building Principal or designee if the action will not delay immediate notification. The person notifying designated **child** welfare authorities shall inform the Building Principal or designee of the notification, if such had not occurred prior to the notification. Notice to the Building Principal or designee need not be given when the person believes that such notice would likely endanger the reporter or pupil involved or when the person believes that such disclosure would likely result in retaliation against the pupil or in discrimination against the reporter with respect to his or her employment.

The Building Principal or designee upon being notified by a person

having reason to believe that a **child** may be missing or may have been **abused** or neglected, must notify appropriate law enforcement authorities of incidents of potentially missing, **abused**, or neglected **child** situations. Notification to appropriate law enforcement authorities shall be made for all reports by employees, volunteers, or interns working in the school district. Confirmation by another person is not required for a school district employee, volunteer, or intern to report the suspected missing, **abused**, or neglected **child** situation.

School district officials will cooperate with designated **child** welfare and law enforcement authorities in all investigations of potentially missing, **abused**, or neglected **children** in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1(a)5.

The district designates the Superintendent as the school district's liaison to designated **child** welfare authorities to act as the primary contact person between the school district and **child** welfare authorities with regard to general information sharing and the development of mutual training and other cooperative efforts. The district designates the Superintendent as the school district's liaison to law enforcement authorities to act as the primary contact person between the school district and law enforcement authorities, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)1, consistent with the memorandum of understanding, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)13.

An employee, volunteer, or intern working in the school district who has been named as a suspect in a notification to **child** welfare and law enforcement authorities regarding a missing, **abused**, or neglected **child** situation shall be entitled to due process rights, including those rights defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1(a)9.

The Superintendent shall provide training to school district employees, volunteers, and/or interns on the district's policy and procedures for **reporting** allegations of missing, **abused**, or neglected **child** situations. All new school district employees, volunteers, and/or interns shall receive the required information and training as part of their orientation.

There shall be no reprisal or retaliation against any person who, in good faith, reports or causes a report to be made of a potentially missing, **abused**, or neglected **child** situation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.13.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-24
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-11.1

Adopted: 20 December 2011

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