

DE SOTO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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REPORTING CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

The De Soto Area School 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 a part of that commitment, the District requires all District employees to report any threatened or suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with established procedures and applicable state law. ***{NOTE: I revised the previous statement slightly for clarification. I added "all District employees" to emphasize that as a matter of policy the District requires all employees to report. I also added "applicable state law" since not all District employees are mandated reporters under state law.}***

It is not the responsibility of school personnel to investigate child abuse and neglect reports or to prove that abuse or neglect has occurred. School personnel are only responsible for reporting suspected cases of abuse/neglect or threatened abuse/neglect. ***{NOTE: I added "of abuse/neglect or threatened abuse/neglect" since section 48.981(3) of the statutes requires mandated reporters to report not only suspected abuse/neglect but reason to believe that a child has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect will occur.}*** The county department is responsible for investigating reports.

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

The District also believes in a positive and preventative approach toward child abuse and neglect. Therefore, the District endorses efforts toward making staff members more

aware of the issues involved in child abuse and neglect through inservice programs. Protective behaviors instruction shall also be provided for students in the K-12 curriculum. It is hoped that through cooperation between home, school and other agencies, effective treatment can be provided to children and/or families.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 48.02 Wisconsin Statutes  
48.981  
118.01(2)(d)8

APPROVED: January 23, 1995

REVISED:

***NOTE: This proposed policy was found in your district's current policy manual (no - dated 1/23/95). I revised it slightly for stylistic reasons and as outlined above. Although this policy is labeled as a "proposed" policy, it appears to have been approved by the board as it is included in the 06-07 Middle/High School Student Handbook. (WASB - 11/06)***