

THE Riveredge School

Child Abuse and Neglect Policy

The Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School (ROLES) Governance Council is concerned with the physical and mental well-being of all children of ROLES and will cooperate in the identification and reporting of cases of child abuse or neglect in accordance with law. In addition, the Council strictly prohibits any actual or threatened acts of physical, mental, sexual, or other form of abuse directed towards students by any person in any District-owned, operated, or leased facility, or at any school-sponsored activity.

Staff Training Required

The Governance Council shall require every employee to receive training provided by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in identifying children who have been abused or neglected and in the laws and procedures governing the reporting of suspected or threatened child abuse and neglect. Such training shall be completed within the first six (6) months of employment in ROLES and at least once every five (5) years after the initial training. This training may be held in conjunction with staff training for threats of violence as required.

Training conducted in fulfillment of this policy shall include a record of the date, time, duration, and content of the training, as well as a list of all attendees at the training.

Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

Each ROLES employee who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect has occurred or is occurring, or has reasonable cause to believe a child has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect is likely to occur shall be responsible for reporting immediately every case, whether verified or suspected, the circumstances giving rise to the reasonable cause.

Reporting is mandatory even if the staff member has reason to believe that the abuse or neglect occurred, but is no longer occurring (for example, the child is no longer living with the suspected abuser). Staff members should make reports based on reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect and are not permitted to first investigate the circumstances in an effort to verify abuse or neglect. This can cause a loss of time and jeopardize law enforcement or social services investigations into child welfare concerns.

Reporting Procedures

The employee shall immediately call the local office of the Child Welfare Department, or local law enforcement agency.

Employees shall also notify the Administrator.

The identity of the reporting person shall be confidential, subject only to disclosure by consent or court order. A reporting employee shall not be dismissed or otherwise penalized for making a report of child abuse or neglect, unless such report was made knowing it to be false and for the purpose of harming the accused or victim in the report.

Information concerning alleged child abuse is confidential. Any unauthorized disclosure by an official or employee of the School is a violation of the law and may subject the disseminator to civil liability for resulting damages and disciplinary action.

The Administrator should be mindful of the possibility of physical or mental abuse being inflicted on a student by an employee. Any such instances, whether real or alleged, should be dealt with in accordance with the administrative guidelines established by the school's leadership. Staff member reporting obligations under this policy and applicable law are the same regardless of whether the suspected abuser is a parent, guardian, or another staff member, and reports should be made accordingly.

Legal References:

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Legal

48.981, Wis. Stats.

118.07(5) Wis. Stats.

175.32, Wis. Stats.

Adopted by ROLES Governance Council:

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