

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND REPORTING

The County Board of Education recognizes the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's (COE's) responsibility to educate students about the dangers of child abuse so that they will acquire the skills and techniques needed to identify unsafe situations and to react appropriately and promptly.

The COE's instructional program shall include age appropriate and culturally sensitive child abuse prevention curriculum. This curriculum shall explain the student's right to live free of abuse, inform them of available support resources, and teach them how to obtain help and disclose incidents of abuse. The curriculum also may include training in self-protection techniques.

The County Superintendent or designee shall seek to incorporate community resources into the COE's child abuse prevention programs. To the extent feasible, the County Superintendent or designee shall use these community resources to provide parents/guardians with instruction in parenting skills and child abuse prevention.

Child Abuse Reporting

The County Board recognizes that child abuse has severe consequences and that the COE has a responsibility to protect students by facilitating the prompt reporting of known and suspected incidents of child abuse. The County Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the identification and reporting of such incidents in accordance with law.

Employees who are mandated reporters, as defined by law and administrative regulation, are obligated to report all known or suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect. Mandated reporters shall not investigate any suspected incidents but rather shall cooperate with agencies responsible for investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse and neglect.

The County Superintendent or designee shall provide training regarding the reporting duties of mandated reporters.

In the event that training is not provided to mandated reporters, the County Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education the reasons that such training is not provided. (Penal Code 11165.7)

Adopted: 10/16/2014

