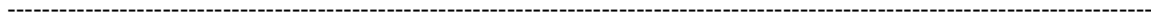


1 **Board Policies**

Blair-Taylor School District

2
3 **Series: 400**
4 **Section: 450**
5 **Policy #: 453**

STUDENTS
STUDENT HEALTH AND WELFARE
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT



8
9 **POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

10
11 The Blair-Taylor School District hereafter referred to as the Blair-Taylor Board of Education
12 recognizes the serious local, state, and national problems of child abuse and child neglect. The
13 Blair-Taylor School Board adopts a comprehensive approach leading toward the detection and
14 reporting of suspected child abuse and child neglect to duly constituted authorities.

15
16 The Blair-Taylor Board of Education is concerned with the whole child and believes that effective
17 parenting is a goal of all parent/guardian. However, it is recognized that undue stress may lead to
18 the abuse or neglect of children. School officials are in a unique position to identify children and
19 families that are in trouble. Seeking help for the child who is suspected to be abused or neglected
20 is compatible with educational objectives.

21
22 The Blair-Taylor Board of Education believes in a positive approach to child protection, pursuing a
23 preventive and therapeutic approach to child abuse and neglect, rather than a punitive approach.
24 School personnel should be aware and sensitive to the causes of child abuse and neglect, assuring
25 accurate reporting. In-service training will help meet this objective. Prevention of future child abuse
26 and neglect can be affected by various curriculum additions and/or revisions. Effective treatment of
27 the family in trouble can involve close cooperation between the home, the school, and other
28 agencies.

29
30
31 **INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED**
32 **ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN**

33
34 Abuse, Neglect, and Child Defined Chapter 48.981 defines "abuse" and "neglect" as follows:
35 "Abuse means any of the following:

36
37 1. Physical injury inflicted on a child by other than accidental means. Physical injury includes
38 but is not limited to lacerations, fractured bones, burns, internal injuries, severe or frequent bruising
39 or great bodily harm as defined under s. 939.22 (14).

40
41 2. Sexual intercourse or sexual contact under s.940 (see appendix A) and 944.

42
43 "Neglect" means failure, refusal or inability on the part of a parent, guardian, legal custodian or other
44 person exercising temporary or permanent control over the child, for
45 reasons other than poverty to provide necessary care, food, clothing, medical or dental care, or
46 shelter so as to seriously endanger the physical health of the child. "Child" means any person
47 under eighteen (18) years of age.

48
49 "Emotional" damage means harm to a child's psychological or intellectual functioning which is
50 exhibited by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or outward aggressive behavior, or a
51 combination of those behaviors, which is caused by the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian
52 or other person exercising temporary or permanent control over the child and for which the child's
53 parent, guardian or legal custodian has failed to obtain the treatment necessary to remedy the
54 harm. Emotional damage may be demonstrated by a substantial and observable change in
55 behavior, emotional response or cognition that is not within the normal range for the child's age and
56 stage of development.

57 PROCEDURES:

58

59 All school district employees shall proceed as follows in reporting suspected child abuse or neglect:

60

61 1. Any school employee who suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, as defined
62 above, or who has reason to believe that a child has been threatened with an injury, and that abuse
63 of the child will occur, shall report this immediately to the elementary or secondary principal. If
64 neither is available, the report will be made by the individual to the Department of Social Services,
65 538-2311, or the Jackson or Trempealeau County Sheriff's Department. If there is any doubt or
66 question in reporting such case, it should be resolved in favor of the child.

67

68 2. Any school employee reporting under this section may request an immediate investigation
69 by the sheriff or police department if the person has reason to suspect that a child's health or safety
70 is in immediate danger.

71

72 3. The school principal shall obtain all necessary identifying information from school
73 personnel. The principal shall report immediately without discretion, all cases of suspected child
74 abuse or neglect to the authorities mandated by statute (see paragraph 1). The initial
75 reporter shall be made aware of this contact by the school principal. The school principal will be
76 available to participate in any in-school investigative interview.

77

78 4. When the suspected abuse occurs within the school setting, the above procedure will be
79 followed. The school principal will then notify the parent(s) or guardian of the referral, unless to do
80 so is determined to be detrimental to the child or the investigation.

81

82 5. Following the reporting of all cases of suspected abuse or neglect, the principal shall notify
83 the school administrator.

84

85 6. All appropriate school personnel shall be available to provide supportive services when this
86 is a part of a treatment plan.

87

88 7. It is anticipated that an interagency consultative team approach will be utilized when
89 necessary. This team might include representatives from the school, Social Services, law
90 enforcement, legal and medical representatives and other community resources.

91

92 8. Any repeated suspected child abuse or neglect incidents on a previously referred child will
93 be reported as outlined above.

94

95 9. If there are no significant changes from the standpoint of the school following a referral, the
96 Department of Pupil Services may request a consultative team meeting.

96

97 10. Nothing in the above procedure relieves any mandated report from his/her legal
98 responsibilities under section 48.981.

99

100 MODIFICATIONS OF THIS POLICY: Changes will be made in this policy to changes and/or
101 revisions in the state statute.

102

103 -----

104

105 **LEGAL REFERENCE: 48.981, 48.982 Wis. Stats.**

106

107 **First Reading: 7/8/91**

Amended: Adopted: 7/15/91

108

Amended/Reviewed: 10-18-09

109

110

111 **Clerk:** _____