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*Rescinds Policy Number:* JG, JG-R, JG-E#1, JG-E#2, JG-E#3      *Issued:* 7/18/83, 7/18/83, 7/18/83, 7/18/83, 7/18/83

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The board of education supports all employees who make a report of child abuse or neglect in good faith.

Any school employee who knows or has cause to suspect child abuse or neglect is legally required to report the case of the child to the director of social services. The employee also will report the case immediately to the principal.

Any doubt about reporting a suspected situation will be resolved in favor of reporting and the report will be made immediately. A school employee is immune by statute from any civil and/or criminal liability when reporting in good faith suspected child abuse or neglect. Failure on the part of any school employee to report may result in disciplinary action being brought against the employee by the school district or civil action under the law.

The principal may establish a contact person in the school to act as a liaison with social services. All employees will cooperate fully with the department of social services in their investigation of child abuse, including permitting the child to be interviewed by social services on school campuses during school hours and providing confidential information, so long as the disclosure does not violate state or federal law.

The superintendent will develop any necessary procedures for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect and for cooperating with investigations by the department of social services. The board encourages staff development opportunities related to identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

Legal References: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; G.S. 7A-517(1), -543, -550; 8-53.4; 14-318.2; 115C-400, -402