

***Child Abuse In An Educational Setting***

The Board of Education, its officers and employees, shall endeavor to maintain an educational environment that is free from child abuse in an educational setting in accordance with the requirements of Article 23-B of the Education Law and Section 100.2(hh) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Child abuse in an educational setting by school personnel and school volunteers is strictly prohibited. Required reporters shall promptly report any and all written or oral allegations of child abuse in an educational setting, as required by law and regulations implementing this policy. Such report shall be received by the Building Principal, who shall thoroughly and promptly investigate the allegations to determine whether or not reasonable suspicion exists that an act of child abuse in an educational setting has occurred. The police authorities shall be immediately notified in any case where reasonable suspicion of child abuse in an educational setting by school personnel or volunteers has occurred. The Building Principal shall notify the Superintendent immediately where there is a finding of reasonable suspicion that an act of child abuse in an educational setting has occurred. The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall send all requisite notices to parents and the State Education Department when there is a finding of such reasonable suspicion.

For purposes of this policy, “required reporter” is defined as any:

1. school board member
2. teacher
3. school nurse
4. school guidance counselor
5. school psychologist
6. school social worker
7. school administrator
8. other school personnel required to hold a teaching or administrative license or certificate.

“Educational setting” is defined as the buildings and grounds of the district, the vehicles provided by the district to transport students to and from school buildings, field trips, co-curricular and extra-curricular activity sites and any other location where direct contact between an employee or volunteer and a child has allegedly occurred.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop regulations consistent with the requirements of Article 23-B of the Education Law and Section 100.2(hh) of the Commissioner’s Regulations for the purpose of implementing this policy and to assure the notification and annual training of school district officials and employees.