



BOARD POLICY ON CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND REPORTING

The Governing Board is committed to supporting the safety and well-being of Academy scholars and desires to facilitate the prevention of and response to child abuse and neglect. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement strategies for preventing, recognizing, and promptly reporting known or suspected child abuse and neglect. All Academy employees, qualifying volunteers, governing body members, and covered contractors whose duties involve contact with, or supervision of, pupils are mandated reporters under Penal Code § 11165.7 (as expanded by SB 848).

All mandated reporters shall receive training on child abuse identification and reporting within the first six weeks of each school year, or within the first six weeks of employment if employed after the beginning of the school year.

The Principal or designee may provide a scholar who is a victim of abuse with school-based mental health services or other support services and/or may refer the scholar to resources available within the community as needed.

Child Abuse Prevention

The Principal, or designee shall, to the extent feasible, seek to make available community resources regarding child abuse prevention programs including resources to provide parents/guardians with instruction in parenting skills and child abuse prevention.

Links to Community resources on child abuse prevention shall be posted on the Academy's website in a location accessible by parents and scholars. Notification of these resources will also be sent out via Academy communications platforms to parents and scholars.

Child Abuse Reporting

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the identification and reporting of known and suspected child abuse and neglect in accordance with law.

Procedures for reporting child abuse shall be included in the Academy school site safety plans. Any mandated reporter who, in their professional capacity or within the scope of their employment, has knowledge of or observes a child whom the reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect shall make a report to a child protective agency (Child Protective Services or local law enforcement) by telephone immediately or as soon as practically possible, and shall prepare and send a written report within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident.

Reports shall be made to Child Protective Services hotline and/or law enforcement agency as appropriate.

The reporter shall not investigate the matter; investigation is the responsibility of the appropriate agency. School personnel shall cooperate fully with investigators.

Failure to report as required is a misdemeanor. The identity of the reporter shall be confidential to the extent permitted by law. No employee shall be subject to retaliation for making a good-faith report.

B. Procedures Specifically Designed to Address Supervision and Protection of Children from Child Abuse, Neglect, or Sex Offenses. The Academy maintains the following measures to supervise and protect scholars from child abuse, neglect, and sex offenses (as defined in Education Code § 44010):

1. Supervision Standards

- Adequate adult supervision shall be maintained during the school day, before/after-school programs, extracurricular activities, field trips, transportation, and any school-sponsored events.
- Staff-to-scholar ratios and visibility protocols shall be observed in classrooms, restrooms, locker rooms, isolated areas, and outdoor spaces. One-on-one closed-door interactions between adults and scholars are prohibited except in limited, documented circumstances (e.g., counseling with open-door or visible-window protocols, or as required by an IEP/504 plan with appropriate safeguards).
- Volunteers, contractors, and other adults interacting with scholars must complete required background checks, mandated-reporter training, and professional-boundaries training before unsupervised contact.

2. Professional Boundaries All employees, volunteers, and covered contractors shall adhere to the school's written Professional Boundaries Policy (adopted pursuant to SB 848). This includes prohibitions on inappropriate physical contact, private electronic/social-media communications with scholars, gift-giving that creates favoritism, and any conduct that could reasonably be perceived as grooming or boundary violations. Suspected boundary violations shall be reported immediately to the principal or designee and, when required, to child protective services/law enforcement.

3. Facility and Environmental Safeguards The school shall maintain physical-environment practices that reduce opportunities for abuse (e.g., clear sight lines where feasible, restricted access to isolated areas, monitored entry/exit points, and appropriate restroom/locker-room protocols). These practices are reviewed periodically in coordination with the school's insurance provider/JPA and local partners.

4. Response to Suspected Abuse, Neglect, or Sex Offenses

- Immediate safety of the scholar is the priority.
- The principal or designee shall ensure a mandated report is made when required.

- The school shall follow its established protocols for internal documentation, cooperation with investigators, support for the affected scholar(s), and, when appropriate, temporary reassignment or administrative leave of the accused individual pending investigation.
- After verification with local law enforcement that a report has been filed regarding a violent crime or sex offense occurring on school property or during a school-sponsored program/activity/event, the principal or designee is authorized to send written notice to each scholar's parent/guardian and to school employees describing the occurrence and general nature of the crime/offense (Education Code § 32281 as amended).

5. **Prevention Education and Training**

- All mandated reporters shall complete annual child-abuse and neglect prevention training (including content required under Education Code § 44691 as amended).
- Staff shall be trained on the full Comprehensive School Safety Plan, including these supervision and protection procedures.
- Age-appropriate instruction on abuse prevention, healthy boundaries, and how to seek help may be provided to scholars consistent with Education Code § 51950 and guidance issued by the California Department of Education.

6. **Annual Review** These procedures shall be reviewed and updated at least annually as part of the Comprehensive School Safety Plan review process (by March 1 each year, or as otherwise required) and no later than the statutory deadline of July 1, 2026, for initial incorporation of the SB 848 requirements. The school shall consult, as practical, with local law enforcement, child protective services, the school's risk-pool/JPA or insurance provider, and other relevant partners.

C. Related Definitions

- "Child abuse or neglect" has the meaning set forth in Penal Code § 11165.6.
- "Sex offense" has the meaning set forth in Education Code § 44010 (including the expansions enacted by SB 848).