



Merit Preparatory Academy

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MERIT PREPARATORY ACADEMY CHILD ABUSE - NEGLECT REPORTING BY EDUCATION PERSONNEL POLICY

Merit Preparatory Academy supports early intervention in the child abuse-abuser cycle and also supports taking early protective measures to prevent said cycle. The daily contact of education personnel with children places them in a unique and ideal position for identifying and referring suspected cases of abuse or neglect.

Any school employee who knows or reasonably believes that a child has been neglected, or physically or sexually abused, shall immediately notify the local police department or the office of the state Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS). The school employee shall also notify the Director or Assistant Director. However, such a report does not satisfy the employee's personal duty to report the abuse or neglect to law enforcement or DCFS. Merit Preparatory Academy charter school shall cooperate with social services and law enforcement agency employees authorized to investigate charges of child abuse and neglect.

School employees shall cooperate with social service and law enforcement employees including:

1. allowing appropriate access to students;
2. allowing agency employees to interview children consistent with DCFS and law enforcement protocols;
3. making no contact with parents or legal guardians of children being questioned;
4. maintaining appropriate confidentiality

Merit Preparatory Academy will also ensure the anonymity of those reporting or investigating child abuse or neglect.

References: R277-401

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Board Approved: 7/26/20