

NOTICE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 39, FLORIDA STATUTES

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse, Abandonment or Neglect:

Mandatory Duty to Report. Florida Statute 39.201 requires any person, including, but not limited to teachers or other school officials or personnel who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare to report such knowledge or suspicion to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Reporter confidentiality is protected by Section 39.202, Florida Statutes. **The toll-free reporting "hotline" number is 1-800-96ABUSE (1-800-962-2873).**

Liability. Failure to report is a misdemeanor of the first degree as described in Section 39.205, Florida Statutes. In addition, the Education Practices Commission may suspend or revoke your educator certificate for failure to report, in accordance with Section 1012.795, Florida Statutes. Any person reporting in good faith shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability, pursuant to Section 39.203, Florida Statutes.

Protective Investigation. In addition, all employees and agents of the School Board have a duty to comply with child protective investigations and all other provisions of law relating to child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.

Further Information. For further information, please refer to the School Board's Child Abuse Investigations Procedural Manual or contact the Department of Student Services at 772-429-4510.