**Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting by School Personnel**

**Board Policy and Responsibility**

**Policy – TA5106**

**Board Approved 10-8-2015**

The Board recognizes that the Utah law requires the reporting of child abuse and neglect by any person who has reason to believe that a child has been abused or neglected. In order to be compliant with Utah Code R277-401, The Principal shall train school employees on their responsibilities in reporting suspected abuse or neglect. The following steps shall be followed in cases of suspected abuse or neglect:

**Reporting Abuse to DCFS**

1. If a school employee has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect, or who observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, that person shall immediately notify the school principal. In the presence of the reporting employee, the principal shall notify the state division of Child and Family services. If this office is closed, local law enforcement will be notified. In the event the principal is not available, the principal's designee will make the necessary reports.

2. It is not the responsibility of school employees to prove that the child has been abused or neglected or determine whether the child is in need of protection. Investigations are the responsibility of law enforcement or the DCFS. Investigation by education personnel prior to submitting a report should not go beyond that necessary to support a reasonable belief that a reportable incident exists.

3. School employees shall not make contact with the child’s family or other persons (relatives, friends, neighbors, etc.) for the purpose of determining the cause of the injury and/or apparent neglect.

4. School officials shall cooperate with law enforcement and DCFS employees authorized to investigate charges of child abuse and neglect including allowing access to student records, allowing authorized representatives to interview children in accordance with DCFS and local law enforcement, cooperating with on-going investigations, and maintaining appropriate confidentiality.

5. Persons, participating in good faith in making a report or assisting an investigator from the DCFS regarding the alleged child abuse or neglect ~~is~~ are immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that otherwise might result by reason of those actions. Confidentiality of such persons shall be ensured by the school principal and district administration, unless otherwise provided by law.