

CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT POLICY

Vista School Child Abuse or Neglect Policy

Vista believes that the social, emotional, and physical well-being of students is one of its highest priorities. Therefore, the following rules and procedures shall be followed:

I. Vista employees will cooperate with social service or law enforcement agencies that are authorized to investigate child abuse or neglect by:

- A. Allowing access to students upon request.
- B. Allowing approved individuals to interview students.
- C. Making no contact with parents or guardians of interviewed students.
- D. Maintaining appropriate confidentiality.

II. Vista will preserve the anonymity of individuals that report suspected abuse or neglect.

III. Any Vista employee who knows of or suspects neglect or abuse of any type shall abide by the following guidelines:

- A. Employee shall immediately report suspicions to the nearest law enforcement agency and DCFS.
- B. Employee does not have to show or provide proof of neglect or abuse, simply reasonable suspicion.
- C. Employee may investigate suspicions but the investigation shall not go beyond what is necessary to support the suspicion that a reportable problem exists.
- D. Employee shall notify the school director or assistant principal but must also notify law enforcement officials and DCFS.
- E. Employees are immune from civil or criminal liability provided report was made in good faith.
- F. Employees shall be trained annually about their responsibilities regarding mandatory reporting.

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