

Operations Policy #906 Child/Student Abuse

Purpose:

It is highly likely that when dealing with students and families, the Cyber School staff may become concerned that a child or a student may be being subjected to abuse. The responsibility under the law is that staff members who believe there is a case of child abuse involved have the responsibility to report such suspected abuse to the proper authorities.

Guidelines:

- Child abuse may take the form of physical, mental, emotional abuse, or abandonment.
 1. Physical abuse may vary from sexual abuse to deprivation of food, water, sleep, clothing, and heat.
 2. Mental abuse is more difficult to judge but can be reflected in an adult playing mind games with a child.
 3. Emotional abuse is using the emotions of a child to manipulate their behavior to the benefit of the manipulator.
 4. Abandonment is leaving a child unattended for extended periods without supervision or food and water, it also can mean making the child homeless or depriving them of a place to sleep.
- Any staff members who suspect a student is being abused in any of these ways should notify the guidance counselor or the CEO of their concerns so a decision can be made as to whether the suspicion is sufficient to warrant a referral to child welfare agencies or the legal authorities. There may be other information available to them that can explain the situations.

Delegation of Responsibility:

The CEO shall be responsible for making the staff aware of this responsibility.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS CONTROL. THIS POLICY IS NOT INTENDED TO CONFLICT WITH CHARTER REQUIREMENT.