

### **NEGLECT/CHILD ABUSE LAW**

North Dakota state law mandates that school teachers and administrators having knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect that a child coming before him in his/her official or professional capacity is abused or neglected shall report the circumstances to the Division of Community Services of the Social Services Board of North Dakota located at 1010 Second Avenue South, Fargo, North Dakota. In addition, any staff member having reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused may report such fact to the Division of Community Services. The law further provides that any person required to report, but who willfully fails to do so, is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor (a Class B misdemeanor penalty is a maximum of 30 days imprisonment or \$500 fine, or both). In addition, any person who permits or encourages the unauthorized disclosure of reports made or confidential information obtained under the provisions of the law is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor. Reports may be made orally; however, each oral report shall be followed within 48 hours by a written report made on the appropriate form available in the principal's office provided for this purpose by the Division of Social Services. Any person, other than the alleged violator, participating in good faith in the making of a report or in providing protective services under this act, is immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that otherwise might result. It shall be the policy that all employees of the West Fargo Public Schools shall cooperate in fulfillment of the purposes of this act.

Child abuse or neglect may be:

- Emotional - Failure to provide warmth, attention, supervision of normal living experiences.
- Physical - Shaking, beating, burning, failure to provide the necessities of life.
- Verbal - Excessive yelling, belittling or teasing.
- Sexual - Incest or other inappropriate sexual activity involving a child.





The statements in this document are intended to provide guidance for daily procedures and practices in order to maintain order, efficiency, and continuity amongst our schools.