

EDUCATION: STUDENTS

Policy 504.3.2-R

Personal Safety of Students (Child Abuse)

1. Goal

The goal of a Child Personal Safety Awareness Programme is to reduce the incidence of child abuse within the community. There are two basic objectives that must be reached if such a goal is to be achieved:

- (a) Any student currently in an abusive situation must be given protection.
- (b) The cycle of child abuse from generation to generation that may occur within a community must be broken by providing students with information on personal safety.

2. Role of School Personnel

The school system is a logical vehicle for the delivery of a Child Personal Safety Awareness Programme. School personnel will:

- (a) Provide information for parents and students on personal safety.
- (b) Refer parents and students to other appropriate agencies for more extensive assistance when necessary.

3. Implementation

Implementation of a Child Personal Safety Awareness Program will include these activities:

- (a) Policy and regulation 405.7, which define responsibilities and procedures for reporting incidences of child abuse, will be available to all school district personnel.
- (b) A Handbook for Teachers on Child Personal Safety Awareness will be available to teachers.
- (c) Principals in all schools will review policy and regulation 405.7 and information related to child abuse, with staff members in September of each school year.
- (d) A Child Personal Safety Awareness Programme will be provided at the first year primary and third year primary levels utilizing materials authorized by the Board.
 - (i) Appropriate training of personnel to present the programme will be assured.
 - (ii) Parents will have the opportunity to view the materials prior to their presentation in class.

4. Cooperation with Community Organizations

Schools will cooperate fully with government ministries, local organizations, and parents concerned with child abuse, and will draw upon their expertise and resources in the following areas:

- (a) Increase community awareness of the problem of child abuse through programmes conducted by various social agencies.
- (b) Reinforce children's awareness and knowledge of personal safety rules through educational programmes conducted by various agencies.
- (c) Provide appropriate intervention.