Excelsior Independent School District

Child Abuse, Neglect, Human Trafficking, School Staff Misconduct, and Other Maltreatment of Children

Excelsior ISD Commitment

Excelsior ISD is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for every student. The district has established procedures to help prevent, recognize, report, and respond to child abuse, neglect, human trafficking, school staff misconduct, and other forms of child maltreatment.

District employees receive training as required by Texas law to recognize the warning signs of abuse, neglect, trafficking, and other maltreatment and to fulfill their legal responsibility as mandatory reporters.

Recognizing Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse and neglect may include:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Mental or emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Human trafficking, including:
    - Sex trafficking
    - Labor trafficking

Warning signs vary depending on the child and situation. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, do not assume someone else has already reported it.

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

Texas law requires any person who suspects that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect to make a report immediately.

School employees, contractors, volunteers, and certain licensed professionals have additional legal responsibilities to report suspected abuse or neglect.

A report should be made directly to one of the following:

- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) / Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Local law enforcement
- The appropriate state agency when required by law

Texas Abuse Hotline

Phone: **1-800-252-5400**

Online Reporting: **https://www.txabusehotline.org**

Individuals should not delay reporting to first notify a supervisor or campus administrator. Reports must be made directly to the appropriate authorities as required by law.

Reporting School Staff Misconduct

If you have concerns regarding inappropriate conduct or misconduct involving a school employee and a student, immediately report the concern to one of the following:

- Campus Principal
- Superintendent
- Local law enforcement (when appropriate)
- Texas Education Agency, if applicable

Reports involving suspected abuse or neglect by a school employee should also be made directly to DFPS/Child Protective Services.

Student Safety and Support

Students who believe they are being abused, neglected, trafficked, or otherwise mistreated—or who are concerned about another student—should immediately tell a trusted adult, such as:

- A parent or guardian
- A teacher
- A counselor
- The principal
- Another trusted school employee

Students are encouraged to speak up if they are concerned about their own safety or the safety of another child.

Parent Resources

Parents and guardians play an important role in recognizing signs of abuse, neglect, and trafficking.

If you suspect a child is in immediate danger, call **911**.

For concerns that are not emergencies, contact DFPS using the Texas Abuse Hotline listed above.

District Training

Excelsior ISD provides annual training for employees regarding:

- Child abuse and neglect
- Human trafficking
- Child sexual abuse
- Other maltreatment of children
- Mandatory reporting responsibilities
- Recognizing warning signs
- Prevention strategies

Additional Information

For questions regarding student safety procedures, please contact the Excelsior ISD Administration Office.

Together, parents, staff, students, and community members share the responsibility of protecting children and ensuring every student has a safe environment in which to learn and grow.

Resources:

Texas Abuse Hotline (DFPS)

Phone: **1-800-252-5400**

Online Reporting: https://www.txabusehotline.org

Texas Education Agency – Reporting Educator Misconduct

Online Reporting: https://tea.texas.gov/educators/investigations/educator-misconduct-investigations

National Human Trafficking Hotline

Phone: **1-888-373-7888**

Online Reporting: https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en

Excelsior ISD Student Handbook

Link:

Excelsior ISD Board Policy FFG (Child Abuse and Neglect)

https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=1073&code=FFG#legalTabContent