I. PURPOSE

Athlos Academy believes that the daily contact of school personnel with children places them in a unique position to identify suspected cases of child maltreatment. This policy outlines the early protective measures towards allegations of child abuse and neglect.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Mandatory Reporting: Athlos Academy employees are required to report instances of child neglect or physical or sexual abuse when the employee has a “reasonable suspicion” that child maltreatment has occurred.

B. Reasonable Suspicion: Arises when the facts surrounding the incident or suspicion could cause another person in the same situation to suspect child abuse or neglect.

III. POLICY

A. All school employees are mandated reporters of child maltreatment and are obligated to take immediate action.

B. Any employee who knows or reasonably suspects a child has been the victim of child neglect, or physical or sexual abuse shall immediately report the instance to the Lead School Administrator or the school counselor.

C. The Lead School Administrator or school counselor shall relay the report to a local welfare agency or law enforcement.

D. A written report, by the mandated reporter, shall be submitted to either the Lead School Administrator or the school counselor within thirty-six (36) hour of the initial oral report, identifying:

1. The child;
2. Any person believed to be responsible for the neglect or abuse of the child if the person is identified;
3. The nature and extent of the maltreatment; and
4. The name and address of the reporter.
E. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is responsible for assessing or investigating allegations of child maltreatment in schools.

F. The child’s parent/guardian(s) may not be contacted.

1. If a child is released to a law enforcement officer or a local welfare agent, school administration and the agent shall not notify the parent/guardian(s).

G. At the time of hire, every employee at Athlos Academy must sign the Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse or Neglect Form which shall remain in effect for the duration of employment.