**REPORTING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT**

**PROTOCOL**

**MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

When any employee (certified or classified) shall have reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect, the employee shall report the incident with appropriate documentation or testimony to his/her immediate administrative supervisor.

Upon receipt of information deemed to constitute “reasonable suspicion” of child abuse or neglect, the administrative supervisor will discuss with the employee all evidence presented and / or the merits of the information provided.

The administrative supervisor may choose to make a report to the appropriate authorities (NHHS or law enforcement) following consultation, or the administrative supervisor may choose to document the information for future reference.

If, following consultation with his/her immediate supervisor, the employee feels that the incident in question must be reported immediately, regardless of administrative determination to the contrary, the employee may choose to make the report, informing his/her supervisor of the fact without fear of administrative disciplinary action.

When it is determined that the physical well-being of any student is in immediate jeopardy due to conclusive evidence of abuse, or in cases of extreme neglect, the law enforcement agency in the county of the student’s residence will be notified as soon as practicable by school administrative personnel.