

Administrative Procedure 325

CHILD ABUSE

Background

The Division is responsible for the safety and well being of all students.

It is the legal obligation of school staff members to report to authorities any suspected case of child abuse and/or neglect.

Staff members must be alert to four forms of abuse and/or neglect (Child Neglect – Physical Neglect, Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, and Sexual Abuse) which might endanger the child's right to safety, security and/or development.

Procedures

1. Any staff member having reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a student has been subjected to abuse and/or neglect, or who is concerned about abuse or neglect of a student, shall report to Child and Family Services.
2. Staff members are advised to consult with his/her immediate supervisor prior to reporting to Child and Family Services social worker.
3. If the allegation of child abuse is made against a teacher or other school personnel, the Principal and the Superintendent shall be informed whether the report originates in the school or elsewhere. When an allegation is made against a staff member they will report the matter to Human Resources.
4. Reporting suspected abuse to Child and Family Services shall take place promptly, preferably at the earliest possible time on the same day as the abuse/neglect is suspected. Child and Family Services will advise parents. The school does not contact parents on matters of child abuse.

Reference: Section 18, 20, 45, 60, 61, School Act
Child Youth and Family Enhancement Act
Practice Review of Teachers Regulation AR 4/99
Responding to Child Abuse – A Handbook (October 2005)