

#5120.4.2.5

**Child Sexual Abuse and Assault
Response and Reporting Procedure**

The Madison Board of Education (the “Board”) has adopted a uniform child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault response policy and reporting procedure in connection with the implementation of its sexual assault and abuse prevention and awareness program.

I. Procedures for Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault

A. Students, or any individuals, may make written or verbal reports of suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault to any school employee. For purposes of this policy, a “child” shall be considered any student enrolled in the Board’s schools, except for those enrolled only in an adult education program who are over the age of eighteen (18). The Safe School Climate Specialist or designee for the school in which the student is enrolled shall be notified of the report and shall cause such reports to be reviewed and actions taken consistent with this policy.

B. School employees who receive a report of child sexual assault and/or abuse and have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been sexually abused and/or assaulted shall report such suspicion to the appropriate authority in accordance with Board Policy #4119 pertaining to Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees.

II. Procedures for Review of Reports of Child Sexual Abuse and/or Assault

A. The Safe School Climate Specialist or designee for the school in which the student is enrolled shall be responsible for reviewing any reports of suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault. In the event that the suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault has not yet been reported to the appropriate authority in accordance with Board Policy #4119 pertaining to Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students

34 by School Employees, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall
35 promptly cause such a report to be made.

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37 B. If/when such report alleges that a school employee, as defined by Conn. Gen. Stat
38 § 53a-65, is the perpetrator of child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault, the Safe
39 School Climate Specialist or designee shall immediately notify the Superintendent
40 of Schools or designee, who shall immediately notify the child's parent or
41 guardian that a report has been made to the appropriate authorities in accordance
42 with .Board Policy #4119, pertaining to Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of
43 Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees. The
44 notification requirement shall not apply if a parent or guardian is the individual
45 suspected of perpetrating the child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault. If either a
46 Department of Children and Families (“DCF”) investigation or a police
47 investigation is pending pertaining to the report of suspected child sexual abuse
48 and/or sexual assault, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall obtain
49 the permission of DCF and/or the police department conducting the investigation
50 prior to informing the parents/guardians of the report.

51

52 C. The Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall offer to meet with the
53 student and the parents or guardians of the student about whom a report of
54 suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault has been made, in order to
55 discuss the District’s support procedures, including but not limited to: 1) actions
56 that child victims of sexual abuse and/or sexual assault and their families may
57 take to obtain assistance, 2) intervention and counseling options for child victims
58 of sexual abuse and/or assault, and 3) access to educational resources to enable
59 child victims of sexual abuse and/or sexual assault to succeed in school.

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61 D. In the event that the report of suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault
62 alleges that another student enrolled in the District is the perpetrator of the sexual
63 abuse and/or sexual assault, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall
64 also take appropriate action to investigate or cause such a report to be
65 investigated, and appropriate remedial actions taken, in accordance with Board

66 Policy #4119 pertaining to Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or
67 Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees, Board Policy
68 #5131.911 pertaining to Bullying Prevention and Intervention, and Board Policy
69 #5120.4.2.4, Title IX/Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment. In the event
70 either a DCF investigation or a police investigation is pending pertaining to the
71 report of suspected child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault, the Safe School
72 Climate Specialist shall coordinate investigatory activities with DCF and/or the
73 police in order to minimize the number of interviews of any child or student
74 victim of sexual assault and share information with other persons authorized to
75 conduct an investigation of child abuse or neglect, as appropriate and permitted
76 by law.

77

78 E. The Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall develop a student support
79 plan for anyone who has been a victim of child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault.
80 The report of suspected sexual abuse and/or assault need not be verified prior to
81 the implementation of a support plan. The elements of the support plan shall be
82 determined in the discretion of the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee,
83 and shall be designed to support the student victim’s ability to access the school
84 environment.

85

86 **III. Support Strategies**

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88 A. Child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault can take many forms and can vary
89 dramatically in the nature of the offense and the impact the behavior may have on
90 the victim and other students. Accordingly, there is no one prescribed response to
91 child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault.

92

93 B. The following sets forth possible interventions and supports which may be
94 utilized to support individual student victims of child sexual abuse and/or sexual
95 assault:

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- 97 1. Referral to a school counselor, psychologist or other appropriate social or
98 mental health service.
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- 100 2. Encouragement of the student victim to seek help when feeling overwhelmed
101 or anxious in the school environment.
102
- 103 3. Facilitated peer support groups.
104
- 105 4. Designation of a specific adult in the school setting for the student victim to
106 seek out for assistance.
107
- 108 5. Periodic follow-up by the Safe School Climate Specialist and/or Title IX
109 Coordinator with the victim of sexual abuse and/or assault.
110
- 111 C. The following sets forth possible interventions and supports that may be utilized
112 systemically as prevention and intervention strategies pertaining to child sexual
113 abuse and/or sexual assault:
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- 115 1. School rules prohibiting sexual abuse and sexual assault and establishing
116 appropriate consequences for those who engage in such acts.
117
- 118 2. School-wide training related to prevention and identification of, and response
119 to, child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault.
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- 121 3. Age-appropriate educational materials designed for children in grades
122 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, regarding child sexual abuse and sexual
123 assault awareness and prevention that will include information pertaining to,
124 and support for, disclosures of sexual abuse and sexual assault, including but
125 not limited to:
126

- 127 (a) the skills to recognize child sexual abuse and sexual assault,
128 boundary violations and unwanted forms of touching and contact,
129 and the ways offenders groom or desensitize victims; and
130
- 131 (b) strategies to promote disclosure, reduce self-blame and mobilize
132 bystanders.
133
- 134 4. Promotion of parent involvement in child sexual abuse and sexual assault
135 prevention and awareness through individual or team participation in
136 meetings, trainings and individual interventions.
137
- 138 5. Respectful and supportive responses to disclosures of child sexual abuse
139 and/or sexual assault by students.
140
- 141 6. Use of peers to help ameliorate the plight of victims and include them in
142 group activities.
143
- 144 7. Continuing awareness and involvement on the part of students, school
145 employees and parents with regard to prevention and intervention strategies.
146

147 **IV. Safe School Climate Specialists**

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149 The Safe School Climate Specialists for the District are:

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151 Dr. Elizabeth Battaglia, Principal
152 Town Campus Learning Center
153 battagliae@madison.k12.ct.us
154 203-245-6341

155

156 Becky Frost, Principal
157 Jeffrey Elementary School
158 frostr@madison.k12.ct.us
159 203-245-6460

160

161 Kelly Spooner, Principal
162 Ryerson Elementary School
163 spoonerk@madison.k12.ct.us

164 203-245-6440
165
166 Frank Henderson, Principal
167 Brown Intermediate School
168 hendersonf@madison.k12.ct.us
169 203-245-6400

170
171 Kathryn Hart, Principal
172 Polson Middle School
173 hartk@madison.k12.ct.us
174 203-245-6480

175
176 Anthony Salutari, Principal
177 Daniel Hand High School
178 salutaria@madison.k12.ct.us
179 203-245-6350

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181 **V. Community Resources**

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183 The Board recognizes that prevention of child sexual abuse and sexual assault
184 requires a community approach. Supports for victims and families will include both
185 school and community sources. The national, state and local resources below may be
186 accessed by families at any time, without the need to involve school personnel.

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188 A. National Resources:

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190 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Resource Center
191 <http://www.missingkids.com/Publications>
192 333 John Carlyle Street, Suite #125, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-5950
193 24-hour call center: 1-800-843-5678

194

195 The online resource center contains publications on child safety and abuse prevention,
196 child sexual exploitation, and missing children.

197

198 National Children's Advocacy Center
199 www.nationalcac.org
200 210 Pratt Ave., Huntsville, Alabama 35801
201 Telephone: (256) 533-5437

202

203 National Child Traumatic Stress Network
204 www.nctsn.org
205 NCCTS — Duke University
206 1121 West Chapel Hill Street Suite 201

207 Durham, NC 27701
208 Telephone: (919) 682-1552

209
210 The National Child Traumatic Stress Network offers general information on
211 childhood trauma, including information on child sexual abuse.

212
213 National Sexual Violence Resource Center
214 <http://www.nsvrc.org/projects/multilingual-access/multilingual-access>
215 2101 N. Front Street
216 Governor's Plaza North, Building #2
217 Harrisburg, PA 17110
218 Toll Free Telephone: 877-739-3895

219
220 The resource center includes multilingual access.

221
222 Darkness to Light
223 <http://www.d2l.org>
224 1064 Gardner Road, Suite 210
225 Charleston, SC 29407
226 National Helpline: (866) FOR-LIGHT
227 Administrative Office: (843) 965-5444

228
229 Darkness to Light is a grassroots national non-profit organization to educate adults to
230 prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

231
232 B. Statewide Resources:

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234 Department of Children and Families
235 <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/site/default.asp>
236 505 Hudson Street
237 Hartford, Connecticut 06106
238 *Child Abuse and Neglect Careline: 1-800-842-2288*
239 Telephone, Central Office: (860) 550-6300

240
241 DCF is the Connecticut agency responsible for protecting children who are abused or
242 neglected.

243
244 FAQs About Reporting Suspected Abuse and Neglect are available at:
245 <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2534&Q=314388&dcfNav=>

246
247 The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
248 <http://EndSexualViolenceCT.org/>
249 96 Pitkin Street
250 East Hartford, CT 06108
251 24-hour toll-free hotline: 1-888-999-5545 English/1-888-568-8332 Español
252 Telephone: (860) 282-9881

253

254 The alliance is a statewide coalition of community-based sexual assault crisis service
255 programs working to end sexual violence through victim assistance, public policy
256 advocacy, and prevention education training. Each member center provides free and
257 confidential 24/7 hotline services in English and Spanish, individual crisis counseling,
258 support groups, accompaniment and support in hospitals, police stations, and courts,
259 referral information, and other services to anyone in need.

260

261 *To find a Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence member program please visit:*

262 <http://endsexualviolencect.org/who-we-are/>

263

264 Connecticut Children's Alliance

265 www.ctchildrensalliance.org

266 75 Charter Oak Ave Suite 1-309

267 Hartford, Connecticut 06106

268 Phone: (860) 610-6041

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270 CCA is a statewide coalition of Child Advocacy Centers and Multidisciplinary

271 Teams.

272

273 Connecticut Network of Care

274 <http://connecticut.networkofcare.org>

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276 Connecticut Network of Care is an online information portal listing programs and

277 support groups for sexual assault and abuse in Connecticut.

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280 C. Local Resources:

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282 Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven

283 (24 Hour Hotline) 203-789-8104 or 1-888-774-2900

284 www.dvsgnh.com

285

286 Sexual Assault Crisis Services of Greater New Haven

287 (24 Hour Hotline) 203-624-2273 or 1-888-999-5545

288 www.connsacs.org

289

290 Madison Youth & Family Services

291 10 School Street, Madison

292 (203) 245-5645

293 www.madisonyouthservices.org

294

295 **Legal References:**

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297 Conn. Gen. Stat § 17a-101b Report by mandated reporter. Notification of law

298 enforcement agency when allegation of sexual abuse or

299 serious physical abuse. Notification of person in charge of

300 institution, facility or school when staff member suspected

301 of abuse or neglect.

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304 Conn. Gen. Stat § 17a-101q State-wide sexual abuse and assault awareness and
305 prevention program

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308 First Reading: February 9, 2021

309 Second Reading: March 2, 2021

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