

**#5120.4.2.5**

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

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

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

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

18  
19 B. School employees who receive a report of child sexual assault and/or abuse and  
20 have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been sexually abused  
21 and/or assaulted shall report such suspicion to the appropriate authority in  
22 accordance with Board Policy #4119 pertaining to Reports of Suspected Abuse or  
23 Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School  
24 Employees.

25  
26 **II. Procedures for Review of Reports of Child Sexual Abuse and/or Assault**

27  
28 A. The Safe School Climate Specialist or designee for the school in which the  
29 student is enrolled shall be responsible for reviewing any reports of suspected  
30 child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault. In the event that the suspected child  
31 sexual abuse and/or sexual assault has not yet been reported to the appropriate  
32 authority in accordance with Board Policy #4119 pertaining to Reports of  
33 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.

60

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.  
99
- 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:  
114
- 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.  
120
- 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.  
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#### 147 **IV. Safe School Climate Specialists**

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149 The Safe School Climate Specialists for the District are:

150

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

155

156 Becky Frost, Principal  
157 Jeffrey Elementary School  
158 [frostr@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:frostr@madison.k12.ct.us)  
159 203-245-6460

160

161 Kelly Spooner, Principal  
162 Ryerson Elementary School  
163 [spoonerk@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:spoonerk@madison.k12.ct.us)

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

170  
171 Kathryn Hart, Principal  
172 Polson Middle School  
173 [hartk@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto: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](mailto:salutaria@madison.k12.ct.us)  
179 203-245-6350

180

## 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.

187

### 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](http://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](http://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:

233  
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](http://www.ctchildrensalliance.org)

266 75 Charter Oak Ave Suite 1-309

267 Hartford, Connecticut 06106

268 Phone: (860) 610-6041

269

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>

275

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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279

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](http://www.dvsgnh.com)

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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](http://www.connsacs.org)

289

290 Madison Youth & Family Services

291 10 School Street, Madison

292 (203) 245-5645

293 [www.madisonyouthservices.org](http://www.madisonyouthservices.org)

294

295 **Legal References:**

296

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.



302

303

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