

# DRAFT UPDATE

Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative

5:90

*Edits*

## General Personnel

### Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

Any Cooperative employee who suspects or receives knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected child or, for a student aged 18 through 22, an abused or neglected individual with a disability, shall: (1) immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on its Child Abuse Hotline 800/25-ABUSE or 217/524-2606, and (2) follow directions given by DCFS concerning filing a written report within 48 hours with the nearest DCFS field office.

The report shall include, if known:

1. The name and address of the child, parent/guardian names, or other persons having custody;
2. The child's age;
3. The child's condition, including any evidence of previous injuries or disabilities; and
4. Any other information that the reporter believes may be helpful to DCFS for its investigation.

The employee shall also promptly notify the Superintendent or Building Principal that a report has been made. ~~The Director or Building Principal shall immediately coordinate any necessary notifications to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with DCFS, the applicable school resource officer (SRO), and/or local law enforcement.~~

Any Cooperative employee who discovers child pornography on electronic and information technology equipment shall immediately report it to local law enforcement, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline 800/843-5678, or online at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com). The Executive Director or Building Principal shall also be promptly notified of the discovery and that a report has been made.

Any Cooperative employee who observes any act of hazing that does bodily harm to a student must report that act to the Building Principal, Executive Director, or designee who will investigate and take appropriate action. If the hazing results in death or great bodily harm, the employee must first make the report to law enforcement and then to the Superintendent or Building Principal. Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed to or required of a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any group, organization, club, or athletic team whose members are or include other students.

### Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA), School Code, and Erin's Law Training

The Executive Director or designee shall provide staff development opportunities for Cooperative employees in the detection, reporting, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

All Cooperative employees shall:

1. Before beginning employment, sign the *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form provided by DCFS. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the signed forms are retained.
2. Complete mandated reporter training as required by law within one year of initial employment and at least every 5 years after that date.

The Executive Director will encourage all Cooperative educators to complete continuing professional development that addresses the traits and identifiers that may be evident in students who are victims of child sexual abuse, including recognizing and reporting child abuse and providing appropriate follow-up and care for abused students as they return to the classroom setting.

**Comment [AKL1]:** This sentence is optional. The sample policy makes coordination with DCFS, the SRO, and local law enforcement a step in the process of reporting, so the local agencies and school district are better able to prevent and manage the risks school officials and parents/guardians face when a DCFS report has been made, e.g., situations where parents/guardians, upon learning a DCFS report has been made involving their child(ren), commit an act of self-harm in response to the information.

Issue 90, October 2015

# DRAFT UPDATE

## Special Executive Director Responsibilities

The Executive Director shall execute the requirements in Board policy 5:150, *Personnel Records*, whenever another school Cooperative requests a reference concerning an applicant who is or was a Cooperative employee and was the subject of a report made by a Cooperative employee to DCFS.

The Executive Director shall notify the State Superintendent and the Regional Superintendent in writing when he or she has reasonable cause to believe that a ~~certificate~~ license holder was dismissed or resigned from the Cooperative as a result of an act that made a child an abused or neglected child. The Superintendent must make the report within 30 days of the dismissal or resignation and mail a copy of the notification to the ~~certificate~~ license holder.

Comment [AKL2]: "Certificate" is changed to "license" throughout.  
Issue 90, October 2015

## Special Board Member Responsibilities

Each individual Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in the Act, direct or cause the Board to direct the Executive Director or other equivalent school administrator to comply with the Act's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9.  
20 ILCS 1305/1-1 et seq.  
20 ILCS 2435/.  
325 ILCS 5/.  
720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1.

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Ethics and Conduct), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews)

ADOPTED: June 4, 2014