

#5120.4.2.5

Procedures for Reporting Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault
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

34 Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students
35 by School Employees, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall
36 promptly cause such a report to be made.

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

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

61

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

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

78

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

86

87 **III. Support Strategies**

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

93

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

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- 98 1. Referral to a school counselor, psychologist or other appropriate social or
99 mental health service.
- 100
- 101 2. Encouragement of the student victim to seek help when feeling overwhelmed
102 or anxious in the school environment.
- 103
- 104 3. Facilitated peer support groups.
- 105
- 106 4. Designation of a specific adult in the school setting for the student victim to
107 seek out for assistance.
- 108
- 109 5. Periodic follow-up by the Safe School Climate Specialist and/or Title IX
110 Coordinator with the victim of sexual abuse and/or assault.
- 111
- 112 C. The following sets forth possible interventions and supports that may be utilized
113 systemically as prevention and intervention strategies pertaining to child sexual
114 abuse and/or sexual assault:
- 115
- 116 1. School rules prohibiting sexual abuse and sexual assault and establishing
117 appropriate consequences for those who engage in such acts.
- 118
- 119 2. School-wide training related to prevention and identification of, and response
120 to, child sexual abuse and/or sexual assault.
- 121
- 122 3. Age-appropriate educational materials designed for children in grades
123 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, regarding child sexual abuse and sexual
124 assault awareness and prevention that will include information pertaining to,
125 and support for, disclosures of sexual abuse and sexual assault, including but
126 not limited to:
- 127

- 128 (a) the skills to recognize child sexual abuse and sexual assault,
129 boundary violations and unwanted forms of touching and contact,
130 and the ways offenders groom or desensitize victims; and
131
- 132 (b) strategies to promote disclosure, reduce self-blame and mobilize
133 bystanders.
134
- 135 4. Promotion of parent involvement in child sexual abuse and sexual assault
136 prevention and awareness through individual or team participation in
137 meetings, trainings and individual interventions.
138
- 139 5. Respectful and supportive responses to disclosures of child sexual abuse
140 and/or sexual assault by students.
141
- 142 6. Use of peers to help ameliorate the plight of victims and include them in
143 group activities.
144
- 145 7. Continuing awareness and involvement on the part of students, school
146 employees and parents with regard to prevention and intervention strategies.
147

148 **IV. Safe School Climate Specialists**

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150 The Safe School Climate Specialists for the District are:

151
152 Dr. Elizabeth Battaglia, Principal
153 Town Campus Learning Center
154 battagliae@madison.k12.ct.us
155 203-245-6341

156
157 Becky Frost, Principal
158 Jeffrey Elementary School
159 frostr@madison.k12.ct.us
160 203-245-6460

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

165 203-245-6440
166
167 Frank Henderson, Principal
168 Brown Intermediate School
169 hendersonf@madison.k12.ct.us
170 203-245-6400

171
172 Kathryn Hart, Principal
173 Polson Middle School
174 hartk@madison.k12.ct.us
175 203-245-6480

176
177 Anthony Salutari, Principal
178 Daniel Hand High School
179 salutaria@madison.k12.ct.us
180 203-245-6350

181

182 **V. Community Resources**

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

188

189 A. National Resources:

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191 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Resource Center
192 <http://www.missingkids.com/Publications>
193 333 John Carlyle Street, Suite #125, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-5950
194 24-hour call center: 1-800-843-5678

195

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

198

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

203

204 National Child Traumatic Stress Network
205 www.nctsn.org
206 NCCTS — Duke University
207 1121 West Chapel Hill Street Suite 201

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

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

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

220
221 The resource center includes multilingual access.

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

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

232
233 B. Statewide Resources:

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

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

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

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

254

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

261

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

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

264

265 Connecticut Children's Alliance

266 www.ctchildrensalliance.org

267 75 Charter Oak Ave Suite 1-309

268 Hartford, Connecticut 06106

269 Phone: (860) 610-6041

270

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

272 Teams.

273

274 Connecticut Network of Care

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

276

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

278 support groups for sexual assault and abuse in Connecticut.

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280

281 C. Local Resources:

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283 Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven

284 (24 Hour Hotline) 203-789-8104 or 1-888-774-2900

285 www.dvsgnh.com

286

287 Sexual Assault Crisis Services of Greater New Haven

288 (24 Hour Hotline) 203-624-2273 or 1-888-999-5545

289 www.connsacs.org

290

291 Madison Youth & Family Services

292 10 School Street, Madison

293 (203) 245-5645

294 www.madisonyouthservices.org

295

296 **Legal References:**

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

299 enforcement agency when allegation of sexual abuse or

300 serious physical abuse. Notification of person in charge of

301 institution, facility or school when staff member suspected

302 of abuse or neglect.

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304

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

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308

309 First Reading: February 9, 2021

310 Second Reading: March 2, 2021

311 Third Reading: April 6, 2021

312