

**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

Note: AS 14.08.111 and AS 14.14.090 require districts to provide mandatory reporters with training in the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Pursuant to AS 47.17.020, teachers, school administrators, and paid athletic coaches are mandated to report child abuse and neglect. New employees required to report are to be trained on this obligation within 45 days after the first day of employment. AS 47.17.022. A school district providing training shall provide notice of the training to public and private schools in the district and invite volunteers who are required to report to participate in the training at no cost to the volunteer. Effective June 30, 2017, volunteers who interact with children in public or private school for more than four hours a week are also mandatory reporters of child abuse. AS 18.66.310 requires school districts to offer continuing education at least once every two years on domestic violence for mandatory reporter employees.

Abuse and neglect affects the well-being of students. Teachers, school administrators, paid athletic coaches and volunteers who interact with children in a school for more than four hours a week shall be trained on the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect in accordance with state law. An athletic coach who is an unpaid volunteer is not required to report child abuse or neglect unless the coach volunteers for more than 4 hours a week for 4 consecutive weeks, or for 20 hours a week in a one month period, has received training, and signed a form acknowledging the obligation to report. District employees shall cooperate with the child protective agencies responsible for reporting, investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse.

*(cf. 4131 – Staff Development)*

*(cf. 5141.42 - Professional Boundaries for staff and students)*

The district shall provide notice of child abuse and neglect mandatory reporter training to all public and private schools in the district, in addition to the training set forth in BP/AR 5141.42, *Professional Boundaries for staff and students*. All mandatory reporters, including qualifying volunteers, are invited to participate in the training at no cost.

Note: Many school employees may encounter child abuse and neglect. The following optional language expands the number of school employees offered training in child abuse recognition and reporting. It may be revised or deleted as desired.

In addition to the required training provided above, the Superintendent or designee may invite classified personnel who have regular contact with students to participate in child abuse and neglect training. Classified personnel should immediately report instances of suspected child abuse or neglect to the site administrator.

Note: Pursuant to AS 47.17.068, failing to report child abuse or neglect mandated by law is a misdemeanor if the person knew or should have known that circumstances gave rise to the need for a report.

*Legal Reference (see next page):*

Students

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BP 5141.4(b)

*Legal Reference:*

ALASKA STATUTES

*14.08.111 Duties (Regional school boards)*

*14.14.090 Additional duties*

*18.66.310 Continuing education for public employees, court system employees, and for prosecuting authorities*

*47.17.010-47.17.070 Child protection*

*Revised 10/2021*