



Book	Policy Manual
Section	8000 Operations
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REVISED POLICY - SPECIAL UPDATE - SCHOOL SAFETY

8462 - ~~CHILD MANDATORY REPORTING OF STUDENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND THREATS OF VIOLENCE~~

The Board ~~is concerned with the physical and mental well-being of all children of this District and will cooperate in the identification and reporting of cases of child abuse or neglect in accordance with law. In addition, the Board~~ strictly prohibits any actual or threatened acts of physical, mental, sexual, or other form of abuse directed towards students by any person in any District-owned, operated, or leased facility, or at any school-sponsored activity. ~~Likewise, the Board strictly prohibits any threats of violence in or targeted at any school. All incidents or suspected incidents of such conduct must be reported as described in this policy and in State law and will be investigated. All District employees, regardless of position, are required to make a report in the following instances:~~

- A. ~~when the staff member has reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen in the course of the staff member performance of their job duties has been abused or neglected, or has been threatened with abuse or neglect, regardless of the identity of the suspected perpetrator;~~

~~The report shall be made to local law enforcement or social services.~~

- B. ~~when the staff member believes in good faith based on a threat made by any person regarding violence targeted at a school, that the health and safety of any person is in serious or imminent threat. Any such threats shall be immediately reported to law enforcement as described in policy.~~

~~Any staff member who, in good faith, believes that circumstances require reporting shall do so without conducting any further investigation concerning the subject matter of the report. When a report is made, the staff member shall immediately notify the building level administrator or District Administrator that a report has been made and provide detail concerning the basis for the report.~~

Staff Training Required

The Board shall require every employee to receive training provided by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in identifying children who have been abused or neglected and in the laws and procedures ~~detailed herein~~ governing the reporting of suspected or threatened child abuse and neglect. Such training shall be completed within the first six (6) months of employment in the District and ~~thereafter~~ at least once every five (5) years after the initial training. This training may be held in conjunction with staff training for threats of violence as required in Policy 8462.01.~~The District Administrator shall coordinate all training and shall prepare administrative guidelines that provide information concerning the prevention of child abuse or neglect and threats of school violence, as well the signs that a student may be a victim of or at risk of becoming a victim of abuse or neglect.~~

Training conducted in fulfillment of this policy shall include a record of the date, time, duration, and content of the training, as well as a list of all attendees at the training.~~The required training shall also include training on the laws governing the reporting of threats of violence in or targeted at a school.~~

Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect~~Procedures for Reporting—Child Abuse and Neglect~~

Each District employee who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect has occurred or is occurring, or has reasonable cause to believe a child has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect is likely to occur shall be responsible for reporting immediately every case, whether verified or suspected, the circumstances giving rise to the reasonable cause.

Reporting is mandatory even if the staff member has reason to believe that the abuse or neglect occurred, but is no longer occurring (for example, the child is no longer living with the suspected abuser). Staff members should make reports based on reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect and are not permitted to first investigate the circumstances in an effort to verify abuse or neglect. This can cause a loss of time and jeopardize law enforcement or social services investigations into child welfare concerns.

Reporting Procedures

The employee shall immediately call the local office of the Child Welfare Department, ~~social services department,~~ or local law enforcement agency ~~and shall secure prompt medical attention if pertinent.~~

Employees shall also notify the building level administrator or the District Administrator ~~appropriate administrator according to the District's Reporting Procedure for Student Abuse or Neglect and Threats of Violence.~~

The identity of the reporting person shall be confidential, subject only to disclosure by consent or court order, ~~or as otherwise compelled by law.~~ A reporting employee shall not be dismissed or otherwise penalized for making a good faith report of child abuse or neglect, ~~unless such report was made knowing it to be false and for the purpose of harming the accused or victim in the report. The details of any reported incident, including the identities of the individuals involved or noted in the report, shall be kept confidential to the extent permitted. Any staff member who disseminates such information other than as permitted or required by policy or legal obligation may be subject to disciplinary action. Any staff member who reports suspected child abuse or neglect will not be subject to disciplinary action and is immune from civil liability to the extent provided for by law.~~

Information concerning alleged child abuse is confidential. Any unauthorized disclosure by an official or employee of the District is a violation of the law and may subject the disseminator to civil liability for resulting damages and disciplinary action.

Each principal should be mindful of the possibility of physical or mental abuse being inflicted on a student by an employee. Any such instances, whether real or alleged, should be dealt with in accordance with the administrative guidelines established by the District Administrator. Staff member reporting obligations under this policy and applicable law are the same regardless of whether the suspected abuser is a parent, guardian, or another staff member, and reports should be made accordingly.

Procedures for Reporting Threats of Violence

~~An employee, regardless of position, who receives a threat or hears a threat of violence in or targeted at a school shall immediately inform law enforcement. The report shall contain detailed information concerning the nature of the threat. The staff member shall cooperate fully with law enforcement. When such a report is made, the staff member shall also inform the building administrator or District Administrator. If a threat is reported to the building administrator, s/he shall immediately notify the district administrator and coordinate the District's coordination with law enforcement, students, and parents as the circumstances require.~~

~~All threats of violence are to be taken seriously. No staff member who reports a threat in good faith shall be subject to disciplinary action. Failure to report a threat may result in disciplinary action.~~

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Legal 48.981, Wis. Stats.
 118.07(5), Wis. Stats.
 175.32, Wis. Stats.

Last Modified by Coleen Frisch on February 17, 2021