

POLICY 5.3: MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE, ABANDONMENT, AND/OR NEGLECT

WHAT ELSE IS NEW FOR 2007-2008?

- Known or suspected abuse by employees of a public school must be reported to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for investigation.
- Knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that a child in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care dictates a mandatory report to the DCF Abuse Hotline.
- Concern that a child has been sexually or physically abused by a person who is not a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for a child's welfare shall be immediately reported to law enforcement.
- A person who is required to report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect and who knowingly and willfully fails to do so, or who knowingly and willfully prevents another person from doing so, is guilty of misdemeanor of the first degree.
- Staff reporters are **not** mandated to notify the principal or the child abuse designee of the report made, but **may** do so to solicit support and feedback.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO?

- Notify staff to immediately report all cases of known or suspected child abuse, to DCF by calling the Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96ABUSE (1-800-962-2783).
- Support reporting staff as requested; do **not** demand that you are notified of reports made.
- Review Policy 5.3 for additional information. Policy is available on the District's website.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T?

- Cases of abuse will not be reported and students will continue to be victimized.
- Students will not be able to perform to their maximum potential academically.

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

- All school staff.

HOW WILL YOU COMMUNICATE FOLLOW-UP?

- A procedural manual that will guide the implementation of the Policy will be available to all school personnel and posted online.
- Child Abuse Designees will be trained in the correct implementation.

CONTACT

School Social Work and Attendance Department
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