



Child Abuse and Neglect

Because of their sustained contact with school-age children, teachers and other School employees are in a position to identify abused or neglected children, and are trained to do so. The School requires that every teacher and administrator complete at least four hours of in-service training in child abuse prevention, school safety, violence prevention, human trafficking, substance abuse and the promotion of positive youth development within two years of commencing employment in the School, and every five years thereafter. The School shall also incorporate training on its Anti-Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying policy into the in-service training program requirement. Training on dating violence and prevention is required for all employees who work with middle school students. The School may develop its own curriculum or adopt the curriculum developed by the Ohio Department of Education for the in-service training. The School shall maintain records of staff participation in in-service child abuse detection.

To comply with Section 2151.421 of the Ohio Revised Code, any School teacher, School employee or employee assigned to the School, or School authority that knows or suspects that a student under eighteen years of age (or an intellectually disabled, developmentally disabled, or physically impaired student under twenty-one (21) years of age) has suffered or faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental wound, injury, disability, or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the student, **is required by law to immediately report** that knowledge or suspicion, by telephone or in person, to the local county Children's Services Board; or, if the student is not a resident of the local county, to the public children's services agency or a municipal or county police officer of the county in which the student resides. S/he shall also notify the Principal or his/her designee.

"Sexting" is a term applied to creating, receiving, exchanging, sending or possessing a photograph or other material showing someone in a state of nudity. Sexting is prohibited, regardless of whether any child pornography laws are violated. Students, parents and/or the police may be contacted and sexting may be reported as suspected child abuse or neglect.

If the agency or officer receiving the report requests a written report, the Principal or his/her designee shall provide a written report containing the following information:

1. The names and addresses of the student and the student's parents or the person or persons having custody of the student, if known;
2. The student's age and current condition;



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3. The nature and extent of the student's known or suspected injuries, abuse, or neglect, or of the known or suspected threat of injury, abuse, or neglect, including any evidence of previous injuries, abuse, or neglect; and
4. Any other information that might be helpful in establishing the cause of the known or suspected injury, abuse, or neglect, or of the suspected threat of injury, abuse, or neglect.

In addition, the Principal or his/her designee may take color photographs of the areas of trauma visible on the student and include them with the written report. The identity of the reporting person shall be confidential, subject only to disclosure by consent or court order. Information concerning alleged child abuse of a student is confidential information and is not to be shared with any unauthorized person.

Anyone making a report under 2151.421 of the Ohio Revised Code is presumed to be acting in good faith and is immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise result from making the report. A report made under this section is confidential as set forth in 2151.421 of the Ohio Revised Code. No person may disclose the contents of any report made under this section except as provided above. A staff member who violates this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and/or civil and/or criminal penalties.

The Principal or his/her designee 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 reported to the Principal or his/her designee who will investigate and take appropriate action in accordance with Board directives.

Failure to make a report required by this section, or unauthorized disclosure of the contents of a report made under this section, may result in disciplinary action against the employee.