

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

All employees of the District who know or have reasonable cause to suspect that a child under 18 years of age or a disabled child under 21 years of age has suffered, or is suffering or faces a threat of suffering any type of abuse or neglect are required to immediately report such information to the public children services agency or the local law enforcement agency.

To ensure prompt reports, procedures for reporting are made known to the school staff. A person who participates in making such reports is immune from any civil or criminal liability, provided the report is made in good faith.

The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to develop a program of in-service training in child abuse prevention for all nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists and administrators. This program is developed in consultation with public or private agencies or persons involved in child abuse prevention or intervention programs.

Each person employed by the Board to work as a nurse, teacher, counselor, school psychologist or administrator shall complete at least four hours of in-service training in the prevention of child abuse, violence and substance abuse, school safety and the promotion of positive youth development within two years of commencing employment with the District, and every five years thereafter.

In addition, middle and high school employees who work as teachers, counselors, nurses, school psychologists and administrators must receive training in dating violence prevention. The curriculum for training in dating violence prevention is developed by the Superintendent/designee and training must occur within two years of commencing employment and every five years thereafter.

Conversely, public children's services agencies must notify the Superintendent of any allegations of child abuse and neglect reported to them involving the District, as well as the disposition of the investigation.

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LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2141.011
 2151.421
 3319.073