



## Board of Director's Policy Section 500: Students

Policy # 500.18

### Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

Any School employee who suspects or receives knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected child shall: (1) immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on its Child Abuse Hotline 800/25-ABUSE or 217/524-2606, and (2) follow directions given by DCFS concerning filing a written report within 48 hours with the nearest DCFS field office. The employee shall also promptly notify the Executive Director or Dean of Students that a report has been made.

The report shall include, if known:

1. The name and address of the child, parent/guardian names, or other persons having custody;
2. The child's age;
3. The child's condition, including any evidence of previous injuries or disabilities; and
4. Any other information that the reporter believes may be helpful to DCFS for its investigation.

Any School employee who discovers child pornography on electronic and information technology equipment shall immediately report it to local law enforcement, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline 800/843-5678, or online at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com). The Executive Director or designee shall also be promptly notified of the discovery and that a report has been made.

Any School employee who observes any act of hazing that does bodily harm to a student must report that act to the Dean of Students, Executive Director, or designee who will investigate and take appropriate action. If the hazing results in death or great bodily harm, the employee must first make the report to law enforcement and then to the Executive Director or Dean of Students. Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed to or required of a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any group, organization, club, or athletic team whose members are or include other students.

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA), School Code, and Erin's Law Training

The Executive Director or designee shall provide staff development opportunities for School employees in the detection, reporting, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

All School employees shall:

1. Before beginning employment, sign the Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status form provided by DCFS. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the signed forms are retained.
2. Complete mandated reporter training as required by law within one year of initial employment and at least every 5 years after that date.

The Executive Director will encourage all School educators to complete continuing professional development that addresses the traits and identifiers that may be evident in students who are victims of child sexual abuse, including recognizing and reporting child sexual abuse and providing appropriate follow-up and care for abused students as they return to the classroom setting.

### Special Executive Director Responsibilities

The Executive Director shall execute the requirements in Board Personnel Records policy, whenever another school district requests a reference concerning an applicant who is or was a District employee and was the subject of a report made by a School employee to DCFS.

The Executive Director shall notify the State Superintendent and the Regional Superintendent in writing when he or she has reasonable cause to believe that a certificate holder was dismissed or resigned from the School as a result of an act that made a child an abused or neglected child. The Executive Director must make the report within 30 days of the dismissal or resignation and mail a copy of the notification to the certificate holder.

### Special School Board Member Responsibilities

Each individual Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in the Act, direct or cause the Board to direct the Executive Director or other equivalent school administrator to comply with the Act's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.

### **LEGAL REF.:**

105 ILCS 5/10-21.9.

20 ILCS 1305/1-1 et seq.

20 ILCS 2435/.

325 ILCS 5/.

720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1.

### **ADOPTED:**

April 2011

Revised: May 2015