

SCOTLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Policy

Students

Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

The Board of Education recognizes its legal and ethical obligation in the reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect. Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, require any certified personnel, principals, guidance counselors, school paraprofessionals, coaches of interscholastic athletics as well as licensed nurses, psychologists and social workers who have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused, neglected or placed in imminent risk of serious harm, to report such abuse and/or neglect or risk.

Furthermore, the Board of Education requires all personnel who have reasonable cause or believe that a child has been abused, neglected, or placed in imminent danger of serious harm to report such cases to the Principal or his/her designee or other professional staff, who must then proceed in accordance with the law, Board policy and administrative regulations.

It is mandated that policy and procedure development include three major components: Education, Intervention and Evaluation. The Education component requires that school personnel be provided with ongoing education (staff development) related to the recognition and reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect. Intervention requires that "at risk" students be identified and that suspected child abuse and neglect be reported. Evaluation is essential in order to determine whether policy and procedures are effective and appropriately updated to incorporate changes in knowledge, personnel, student and family needs, community resources and law. Such evaluation should take place annually, or more frequently as needed.

In accordance with the mandates of the law and consistent with its philosophy, the Board in establishing this policy directs the Superintendent of Schools to develop and formalize the necessary rules and regulations to comply fully with the intent of the law.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
17a-101 Protection of children from abuse. Reports required of certain professional persons. When child may be removed from surroundings without court order. (as amended by PA 96-246, PA 00-220, PA 02-106 and PA 03-168)
17a-101a Report of abuse or neglect by mandated reports. (as amended by PA 02-106)
17a-102 Report of danger of abuse. (as amended by PA 02-106)
17a-106 Cooperation in relation to prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse/neglect.
10-151 Teacher Tenure Act