

Students
Child Neglect/Abuse

The Brookfield Board of Education recognizes its legal and ethical obligation in the reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect or of a child placed in imminent danger of serious harm. All mandated reporters including, the school superintendent, administrators, teachers, substitutes, guidance counselors, psychologists, paraprofessional employees, social workers, coaches of intramural or interscholastic athletics and/or nurses and physicians in the school system who have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child under the age of eighteen years has been abused or neglected or placed in imminent danger of serious harm, shall report by telephone or in person his or her suspicions to the Commissioner of Children and Families within twelve hours, followed within forty-eight (48) hours by a written report. Reports of suspicions that a child is in danger of being abused are not required by state law. However, such reports are required by the Brookfield Board of Education. Procedures to guide the reporting process shall be described in the administrative regulations associated with this policy.

The Board believes that all other school employees (e.g., secretaries, custodians, food service workers) not legally mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect are nonetheless ethically obligated to protect children. Thus, these employees must report their suspicions to the building principal, or other professional staff, who must then proceed in accordance with the law, Board policy, and administrative regulations.

Any school personnel who has reasonable cause to suspect that a district employee is abusing a student must orally report that suspicion within twelve (12) hours by telephone or in person to the Office of the Commissioner of Children and Families followed within 48 hours with a written report. The Superintendent of schools or supervising agent must be notified immediately after the oral report has been made. The Commissioner of Children and Families or his/her designee, is required to notify the head of school, except when that person is the alleged perpetrator. The Superintendent or supervising agent must immediately notify parent(s) of the alleged abuse that a report has been made.

Any student or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) who has reasonable cause to suspect that a district employee is abusing a student shall report that information to the school principal or his/her designee who in turn must report that suspicion within twelve (12) hours by telephone or in person to the Office of the Commissioner of Children and Families followed within 48 hours with a written report. The Superintendent of Schools or supervising agent must be notified immediately after the oral report has been made. The Superintendent or supervising agent must immediately acknowledge to parent(s) or guardian(s) that a report has been made.

Students

Child Neglect/Abuse (continued)

In addition, the Superintendent must submit a written report of suspected child abuse by a school employee who holds a certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State Board of Education, to the Commissioner of Education or his/her representative. The Superintendent shall suspend such certified employee when the Office of the Commissioner of Children and Families investigation produces evidence that the employee abused a child. Within seventy-two (72) hours after such suspension, the Superintendent shall notify the Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education or his/her representative of the reasons and conditions of the suspension. If the contract of employment of a school employee who possesses a certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State Board of Education is terminated as a result of an investigation which reveals that child abuse has occurred, the Superintendent shall notify the Commissioner of Education within 72 hours of such termination.

Similarly, when staff members have reason to suspect and believe that an intellectually disabled person eighteen years of age or older has been abused or neglected, they shall report to the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. Additionally, the reporter shall immediately notify the building principal. If the suspected abuser is a staff member, the building principal shall inform the child's parent/guardian and the Superintendent of Schools that a report has been made. In the case of a certified staff member, the Superintendent shall notify the Commissioner of Education.

This policy and related regulations and the telephone numbers for making oral reports and forms for written reports, shall be available in each school's administrative and Pupil Services offices.

Connecticut General Statutes

10-145b Teaching certificates

10-151 Employment of Teachers

10-220 Duties of Boards of Education

10-220a In-service Training

17a-101 Protection of children from abuse. Reports required of certain professional persons when a child may be removed from surroundings without a court order
(As amended by PA 96-246, PA 00-220, and PA 02-106)

17a-101a Report of abuse or neglect by a mandated reporter.

Penalty for failure to report.

Students

Child Neglect/Abuse (continued)

- 17a-101b Oral report by mandated reporter to Commission of Children and Families or law enforcement agency. Notification of person in charge of institution, facility.
- 17a-101c Written report by a mandated reporter
- 17a-101d Contents of oral and written reports
 - Employers prohibited from discrimination against witness in child abuse proceedings. Immunity for making report of child abuse in good faith. False report of child abuse. Penalty.
- 17a-101g Removal of child in imminent risk of harm.
- 17a-101h Coordination of investigatory activities. Interview with child.
 - Consent
- 17a-101i Abuse of child by a school employee. Suspension.
- 17a-102 Report of dangerous of abuse (.as amended by- PA 02-106 and PA 02-
- 17a-103 Reports by others.
- 17a-106 Cooperation in relation to prevention, identification and investigation of child abuse and neglect.
- 53a-65 Definitions

PA 97-319 Public Act concerning the reporting, investigation and prosecution of child abuse and the termination of parental rights.

PA 09-242 Public Act concerning several activities between school workers and students including school Superintendents as mandated reporters of child abuse.

PA 11-93 An Act Concerning the Response of School Districts and the Departments of Education and Children and Families to Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect and the Identification of Foster Children in the School System.

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BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Brookfield, Connecticut