

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TITLE: CHILD PROTECTION

CATEGORY: HEALTH AND SAFETY

NUMBER: 3050

CIRCULATING UNTIL JULY 23, 2025

I. Rationale

Student safety is a top priority for our district. School District employees have a duty to ensure that reasonable care is exercised, and appropriate action taken, to protect students from harm or risk of harm. Accordingly, employees who have reason to believe that that a child has been, or is likely to be, physically or emotionally harmed, or sexually abused or exploited are legally required to report the child protection concern immediately upon discovery.

II. Education

- A. All students learn about personal health and safety through the BC Curriculum throughout the Physical and Health curricular competencies of the K-12 program.
<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/physical-health-education>
- B. Additionally, research indicates that best practice should include explicit teaching of a Personal Safety curriculum by trained staff on an annual basis. With the assistance of the Ministry of Education and Childcare, provincial and national safety organizations, (i.e. Lower Mainland Child Abuse Prevention Education and/or Canadian Centre for Child Protection), and school counsellors, the District will select instructional programs to further help students understand personal safety.
- C. As these programs are part of the curriculum, parent/guardian consent is not required, but best practice would be for the school and family to work collaboratively about this sensitive topic. It is recommended that schools inform parents/guardians prior to instruction so that further discussion and support can be available to students at home after the instruction has occurred.
- D. It is strongly recommended that these programs be delivered prior to May 15th of each school year.

III. Obligation to Report

- A. When employees or volunteers have reason to believe that a child is being, or has been physically, sexually, or emotionally abused, or is suffering neglect, they shall promptly follow the guidelines set out in the B.C. Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect (2017) (https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/public-safety/protecting-children/childabusepreventionhandbook_serviceprovider.pdf). The principal of the school shall also be informed in all cases, unless otherwise directed by the Handbook and also has a duty to report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TITLE: CHILD PROTECTION

CATEGORY: HEALTH AND SAFETY

NUMBER: 3050

CIRCULATING UNTIL JULY 23, 2025

Immediate reporting to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is legally required by the employee or volunteer who has any knowledge of alleged abuse and/or neglect. All calls must go through the MCFD provincial central intake line 1-800-663-9122.

- B. If an employee or volunteer is given a hypothetical situation or other indirect disclosure in which an individual's name is mentioned, the employee or volunteer also has a duty to report to a Child Welfare Worker at the Ministry of Children and Families.
- C. If the child is in immediate danger, the employee or volunteer shall call the police first, and then the MCFD.
- D. The reporter may be asked to provide as much of the following information as is known:
 - 1. The reporter's name and school. The reporter may choose to remain anonymous.
 - 2. The student's full name, date of birth, grade, parents' or guardians' full names, home address(s) and telephone number(s), office telephone number(s) of parents or guardians;
 - 3. Any immediate concerns about the child's safety and special concerns about the child. Reporters should always make the call even if they do not have all of the information.

Reporters will "report with support" of either the principal or the school counsellor.

- E. The student shall not be interviewed by school personnel to obtain this information.
- F. An employee's duty to report overrides one's professional duty of obligation or obligations to speak with a colleague.
- G. The report of an employee or volunteer to a principal or counselor does not replace his/her duty to report to a Child Welfare Worker.
- H. The duty to report is covered under section 14 of the Child and Family Community Services Act and is a legal obligation.
- I. Following the report with support to MCFD, an employee or volunteer making a report shall keep the matter strictly confidential.
- J. Principals, with support from the school counsellor, will ensure that staff receive annual training using the District presentation "Report with Support".

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

TITLE: CHILD PROTECTION

CATEGORY: HEALTH AND SAFETY

NUMBER: 3050

CIRCULATING UNTIL JULY 23, 2025

Revised:

Received: September 2019

References: BC Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect (2017)

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/public-safety/protecting-children/childabusepreventionhandbook_serviceprovider.pdf

BC Ministry of Education Curriculum

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/content/physical-and-health-educationintroduction>

Child, Family and Community Services Act

https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00_96046_01#section14

