

SECTION 445CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT, ABUSE AND NEGLECT

When there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has been sexually assaulted, abused or neglected, all school personnel will act immediately in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes and report incidents to duly constituted authorities.

Child sexual assault is a form of abuse according to Wisconsin Statute 48.981.

Therefore, the Board will endorse efforts toward making staff members more sensitive to and cognizant of the issues involved in child sexual assault, abuse and neglect through in-service programs.

Wisconsin Statute 48.981 requires:

1. Any school personnel must report cases of suspected child abuse or neglect.
2. Not only should cases of abuse and neglect be reported but also it should be reported when there is reason to believe that a child has been threatened with an injury and that abuse of the child will occur.
3. No person making a report under this statute, subsection 2 may be discharged from employment for so doing.
4. Those persons reporting such abuse or neglect shall immediately contact by telephone or personally the county agent, sheriff, or city police department and in the case of American Indian children, the tribal government. The county agency may require that a subsequent report be made in writing.
5. Those persons reporting such abuse may request immediate investigation if they suspect the child is in immediate danger.
6. Those reporting will have immunity from any liability.
7. Failure to report may result in fine not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 6 months or both.

Procedures:

The following procedures are to be used in referring suspected abused and neglected children to the county social services department.

1. persons required to report under Chapter 48.981 (2), who suspect that a child has been or is in danger of being abused or neglected, shall report this immediately to the building principal
2. Any principal who has received a report and who has reasonable cause to believe a child is or will be abused or neglected, shall immediately contact the school counselor or school psychologist.

SECTION 445CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT, ABUSE AND NEGLECT (continued)

3. The principal shall immediately report suspected abuse to the county social services department, Portage police or to the sheriff's office via telephone. The referring person or persons shall submit a written report to the county social services department within 48 hours after the initial report.
4. The referring person shall provide the following information: name, address, age of student, nature and extent of injuries or description of neglect, and any other information that might help establish the cause of the injuries or condition.
5. Copies of the written report shall be submitted to the district administrator and the person first reporting the suspected abuse, outlining the procedures used in a specific referral of child abuse or neglect. These reports will remain in the district administrator's office, or the office of his designee.
6. If the social services department fails to report their findings to the building principal within 2 weeks, the principal shall contact them until a return report detailing the status of the case has been received.

1st Reading - November 12, 1984
2nd Reading - December 10, 1984
Approved - December 10, 1984
Reviewed – October 11, 2004
Revised – March 12, 2012