

## **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING**

### **Reporting Requirement**

Every employee of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board who, in their professional or official capacity, has reason to suspect that a child is an abused or neglected child, in compliance with the Code of Virginia § 63.2-1509 et seq. shall immediately report the matter to

- the local department of social services where the child resides or where the abuse or neglect is believed to have occurred;
- to the Virginia Department of Social Services' toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline; or
- to the executive director or the executive director's designee, who shall make the report forthwith to the local or state agency. The person making the report to the local or state agency must notify the person making the initial report when the report of suspected abuse or neglect is made to the local or state agency, and of the name of the individual receiving the report, and must forward any communication resulting from the report, including any information about any actions taken regarding the report, to the person who made the initial report.

Failure of any employee to report suspected sexual abuse of a minor within 24 hours will result in discipline up to termination.

An anonymous option for reporting alleged sexual abuse of minors is available at [MWabuseprevention@gsgis.k12.va.us](mailto:MWabuseprevention@gsgis.k12.va.us) on the annual notifications page of the school website.

The executive director shall have the responsibility of reviewing reports of suspected sexual abuse of minors for trends, patterns or repeat offenders.

### **Notice of Reporting Requirement**

The Regional School Board posts in the school a notice that

- any teacher or other person employed who has reason to suspect that a child is an abused or neglected child, including any child who may be abandoned, is required to report such suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to local or state social services agencies or the executive director or the executive director's designee; and
- all persons required to report cases of suspected child abuse or neglect are immune from civil or criminal liability or administrative penalty or sanction on account of such reports unless such person has acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose. The notice shall also include the Virginia Department of Social Services' toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline.

### **Complaints of Abuse and Neglect**

The Regional School Board and the local department of social services have adopted a written interagency agreement as a protocol for investigating child abuse and neglect reports, including reports of sexual abuse of a student. The interagency agreement is based on recommended procedures for conducting investigations developed by the Departments of Education and Social Services. The Regional School Board reports substantial modifications of the agreement to the Board of Education.

### Training

Training in mandatory reporting of suspected sexual abuse of minors is included in employee orientations as well as employee in-service training.

Adopted: May 21, 2015  
Amended: June 16, 2016  
Amended: August 15, 2019  
Amended: August 19, 2021

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:7.A, 22.1-291.3, 63.2-1509, 63.2-1511.

### Cross Refs.:

Pol 4012	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
Pol 5011	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
Pol 5040	Third Party Complaints Against Employees
Proced 5075-P	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting and Follow-up