CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING

Reporting Requirement

In accordance with Va. Code § 63.2-1509, the following people who, in their professional or official capacity, have reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, must report the matter immediately:

- any teacher or other person employed by the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board; and
- any athletic coach, director, or other person 18 years or older employed by or volunteering with a school athletics program in the school, including interscholastic teams and clubs.

A report of suspected child abuse or neglect must be made to:

- the local county or city 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 person in charge of the school or department, or a designee, who shall immediately make the report to the local or state agency.

If a person makes an initial report to the school or department, the supervisor must notify the person bringing the initial report of the name of the agency representative receiving the report and forward any communication resulting from the report. Reporting to a supervisor does not relieve an individual of ensuring that the report is made to the appropriate agency.

Notice of Reporting Requirement

In compliance with Va. Code § 22.1-291.3, the Executive Director must ensure that the school has posted a notice of duty to report child abuse or neglect. The notice must include:

- that any teacher or other school employee 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;
- that 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; and
- 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 maintain 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 procedures developed by the Departments of Education and Social Services and will be modified or updated in accordance with applicable state guidance.

Adopted: June 16, 2016
Amended: August 15, 2019
Amended: August 19, 2021
Amended: September 19, 2024
Amended: September 17, 2026

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

Cross Refs.:		
	Pol 5075	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
	Pol 5011	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
	Pol 5040	Third Party Complaints Against Employees
	Pol 7006	Food Services