



POLICY #5.20

## REPORTING SUSPECTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

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### PREAMBLE

The Board recognizes that Burnaby School District employees play a unique and important role in the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect. The Board recognizes its responsibilities in the prevention of child abuse and neglect and in the reporting of suspected cases of abuse and neglect to the appropriate authority/authorities.

### POLICY

THE BOARD SHALL ENSURE ALL SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ARE AWARE OF THE DUTY TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND BURNABY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S REPORTING PROTOCOLS. THE BOARD SHALL ALSO FACILITATE AND SUPPORT ANY INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE THAT SUSPECTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ARE INVESTIGATED IN THE LEAST INTRUSIVE AND MOST RESPECTFUL WAY POSSIBLE FOR THE CHILD.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To raise awareness in all Burnaby School District employees regarding child abuse and neglect so as to protect children who are at risk of being abused or neglected.
2. To ensure all Burnaby School District employees are aware of their duty to report.
3. To ensure that there is a collaborative working relationship with Burnaby RCMP and MCFD in regards to preventing child abuse and neglect in the school and community.

For the purposes of the following administrative procedures, child abuse includes but is not limited to any intentional or non-intentional act of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect. For a full description of terms, including definitions of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect, please refer to The B.C. Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect (June 2017).

A child refers to anyone who is under the age of 19.

## REGULATIONS

### REPORTING SUSPECTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT BY A BURNABY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER OR CONTRACTED SERVICE PROVIDER

#### Responsibilities of the School District Employee

Where a Burnaby School District employee has reason to believe a child has been abused by another School District employee, volunteer or contracted service provider, the employee shall:

1. Call 911 if the student is in immediate danger.  
If the reporting employee believes that the student is in immediate danger, the employee will call 911. Immediate danger means that an emergency is occurring and the reporting employee is currently witnessing harm.
2. Provide a verbal report to the Superintendent of Schools or School Administrator.  
Any employee who suspects a school district employee, volunteer or contracted service provider of child abuse must immediately contact the superintendent of schools and/or their school administrator and provide full details of the allegation in a private and confidential manner.
3. Not inform the family of the student of the report.  
The reporting employee shall not inform the family of the student of the report. The Superintendent of Schools or Designate in coordination with the RCMP will decide on who is to contact the family of the student.

Teachers who report other teachers suspected of child abuse do not contravene the British Columbia Teachers Federation Code of Ethics.

#### Responsibility of School Administrator

Upon receiving a report of suspected child abuse by another School District employee, volunteer or Contracted service provider, the School Administrator shall:

1. Contact the Superintendent of Schools.

#### Responsibilities of the Superintendent of Schools or Designate

Upon receiving a report of suspected child abuse by another School District employee, volunteer or contracted service provider, the Superintendent of Schools shall:

1. Contact the Burnaby RCMP.  
Contact the Child Abuse and Sexual Offence Unit of the Burnaby RCMP to inform them of the allegation.
2. Coordinate contact of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with the Burnaby RCMP.

3. Report the allegation to Ministry of Children and Family Development team in the community where the employee, volunteer or contracted service provider resides.

While the Burnaby School District and/or the Burnaby RCMP will investigate the suspected abuse of the student by the school district employee, volunteer or contracted service provider, the MCFD office where the person who is suspected of child abuse resides should also be notified so that they can determine if there are other protection concerns. The RCMP file number should be communicated to MCFD.

Public inquiries about the child protection and/or police investigations should be referred to the appropriate authorities.

4. Assemble a team of district personnel to investigate the alleged abuse by the school district employee, -5 (n 2 (t)-1 (ho)-5 ( (nic)-3 ( Td [(As)-2 (s)-h(hit)-1 (.8 -1.2 ( w) n)10 (o)-5 (t)-1 (c)-3 (t)-1

Schools Protection Program, Risk Management Branch, and if the employee is a teacher, to the Teacher Regulation Branch.

## REPORTING SUSPECTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT BY A FAMILY OR COMMUNITY MEMBER

### Responsibilities of the School District Employee

Where a School District employee has reason to believe (either a child has disclosed or a staff member suspects) a child has been abused and/or neglected by a parent/guardian or other community member and the parent(s) /guardian(s) are unable to protect, the employee shall:

1. Call 911 if the student is in immediate danger  
If the reporting employee believes that the student is in immediate danger, the employee will also call 911. Immediate danger means that an emergency is occurring and the reporting employee is currently witnessing harm.
2. Make a Report to a Ministry of Children & Family Development Child Protection Worker  
All reports of suspected child abuse in Burnaby are made to a child protection worker at a Burnaby Ministry of Children & Family Development office
  - a. For children under 12 South Office 604 -660-9494 or North Office 604- 660-0602.
  - b. For youth 12 and over 604- 660-5900.
  - c. For Indigenous students 604 -660-9544.
  - d. After -hours 604-660-8180 or the Children's Helpline 310 -1234

If the report is being made because of a student's disclosure, the staff member receiving the disclosure shall make the report to MCFD immediately.

Whenever possible, when making the report, the reporting person should have available the child's name, address, and birth date, parent(s)/guardian(s) names, sibling(s) names, indicate if the child is Indigenous or if an interpreter will be needed.

The child protection worker will also ask for as much of the following information as is available:

- a. The child's location
- b. Whether there are any immediate concerns about the child's safety
- c. Why you believe the child is at risk
- d. Any statements or disclosures made by the child
- e. Information about the family, parents /guardians and alleged offender
- f. Information about siblings or other children who may be at risk
- g. Whether you know of any previous incidents involving, or concerns about the child
- h. Information about other persons or agencies closely involved with the child and/or family
- i. Information about other persons who may be witnesses or may have information about the child
- j. Information about the nature of the child's disabilities, his or her mode of communication, and the name of a key support person, and

- k. Any other relevant information concerning the child and/or family such as language or culture.

Do not contact the parents of the child. This is the responsibility of the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

MCFD may involve the RCMP in a joint investigation.

- 3. Provide a verbal report to the School Administrator  
The employee may immediately inform the School Administrator that a report has been made to the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Employees who report to supervisors who are not school administrators may also inform their supervisor that a report has been made.
- 4. Document reports made on the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form  
It is important to fully document any reports made using the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form. The employee should keep a copy of the form for their records and forward the original in a sealed envelope to the Coordinator

consultation with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, arrange for appropriate support or assistance to be provided to the student.