
Child Abuse and Neglect

Training Requirements under RCW 26A.400.317

Staff will receive training regarding reporting obligations during their initial orientation and every three years after initial employment. Training may include such topics as:

1. Child growth and development;
2. Identification of child abuse or neglect;
3. Effects of abuse or neglect on child growth and development;
4. Personal safety as it relates to potential child abuse or neglect;
5. Parenting and supervision skills;
6. Life situations/stressors which may lead to child abuse or neglect; and
7. Substance abuse.

Reporting Responsibilities under RCW 26.44.030

Staff are required to report every instance of suspected child abuse or neglect.

The following procedures are required when reporting instances of suspected child abuse or neglect:

- A. When there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect, staff or the principal will orally report it to the nearest office of Child Protective Services (CPS) of the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) or the local law enforcement agency. This report must be made at the first opportunity, but in no case longer than forty-eight (48) hours after there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has suffered abuse or neglect.

Staff will also advise the principal regarding instances of suspected abuse or neglect as well as reports that have been made to CPS or law enforcement. In the principal's absence, staff will advise the nurse or counselor.

A staff member may contact CPS to determine if a report should be made. Any doubt about the legal necessity of making a report will be resolved in favor of making the report.

B. A written report will be submitted promptly to the agency to which the oral report was made. The report will include the following information, if known:

1. The name, address, and age of the child;
2. The name and address of the child's parents, stepparents, guardians, or other persons having custody of the child;
3. The nature and extent of the suspected abuse or neglect;
4. Any evidence of previous abuse or neglect, including the nature and extent;
5. Any other information that may relate to the cause or extent of the abuse or neglect; and
6. The identity of the person accused of inflicting the abuse.

C. Child abuse as defined by the statutes can be inflicted "by any person" and may include student-on-student abuse. These cases also require reporting to CPS or law enforcement.

Reporting Responsibilities under RCW 26A.320.160 and RCW 26A.400.317

A staff member or contractor who has knowledge or reasonable cause to believe that a student has been a victim, target, or recipient of physical or sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, or assault by another school employee or contractor must report the abuse, misconduct, or assault to the appropriate school administrator. If the administrator determines they have reasonable cause to believe that the sexual misconduct, physical or sexual abuse, or assault has occurred, they will make a report to law enforcement in accordance with RCW 26.44.030.

While determining whether reasonable cause exists, the administrator will contact all parties involved in the complaint and will immediately notify the parents and legal guardians of the student who is alleged to be the victim, target, or recipient of the physical or sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, or assault.

The district will provide parents and legal guardians with information regarding their rights under the Public Records Act, chapter 42.56 RCW, to request the public records regarding school employee discipline. This information will be provided to all parents and legal guardians on an annual basis.

Defining Child Abuse and Neglect

For definitions regarding abuse and neglect, staff should review RCW 26.44.020, RCW 26.44.030, and WAC 110-30-0030.