

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48 (SEA TO SKY)

REGULATION SERIES 500 - STUDENT PERSONNEL

R 504 STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY R 504.3 Child Abuse Investigations

The School District rules for reporting suspected cases of child abuse are specified in this Regulation and in the Child Protection and Reporting Investigation Protocol (the "Investigation Protocol"). These rules are consistent the B.C. Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect (2007).

1. All school employees, alerted for signs of child abuse, must immediately report their suspicions to a Ministry of Children and Family Development child welfare worker and/or other appropriate authority, as set out in the Investigation Protocol.
2. Any school district employee who receives information that a child has been abused or in need of protection, must immediately report the information to a child welfare worker and/or other appropriate authority, as set out in the Investigation Protocol.
3. The Superintendent or other designated school official must investigate allegations that a child has been abused by an employee or another student, unless the Superintendent considers it appropriate that the Police or other authority should first investigate the matter, as set out in the Investigation Protocol. The Superintendent may investigate allegations that a child has been abused by a volunteer or contractor and/or report the allegations to the Police, as set out in the Investigation Protocol.
4. It is expected that school officials will cooperate and share information with other authorities in relation to child abuse investigations, as set out in the Investigation Protocol. It is also expected that other authorities will cooperate and share information with school officials as necessary to protect students from abuse and to enable school officials to take appropriate action.
5. School staff may provide support for a child who is being interviewed by a child protection worker or the Police, where requested by the Police or Ministry child welfare worker, as set out in the Investigation Protocol.
6. Where allegations of child abuse are made against an employee, volunteer, or contractor, the Superintendent must consider whether such person should be suspended from duties and/or prohibited from attending on school property pending the outcome of the investigation.

7. The Superintendent or other authority conducting the investigation of child abuse will report on the results of the investigation to appropriate persons and authorities, as set out in the Investigation Protocol.
8. All school officials are expected to familiarize themselves with the procedures outlined in this Regulation, the Investigation Protocol and the B.C. Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect.
9. School officials will facilitate training for employees regarding child abuse detection and reporting, as directed by the Superintendent.