

# SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48 (SEA TO SKY)

## POLICY SERIES 500 - STUDENT PERSONNEL

### 504 STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

#### 504.3 Child Abuse Investigations

The Board of Education, School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky), recognizes its responsibility for the well-being of all students in its charge and to that end expects all employees to comply with the legal requirement to report suspected cases of child abuse.

It is recognized that there are statutory and common law duties to protect students in the care of the school district. Under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, school district personnel who have reasonable grounds for believing a child under 19 years to be "in need of protection", as defined in section 13 of the *Act*, shall, notwithstanding any claim of confidentiality or privilege claimed through a profession or occupation, except that between solicitor and client, immediately report their suspicions to a child welfare worker employed by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Additionally, under the common law, school district personnel who have reason to believe that a child has been abused by someone outside of the home environment (e.g. by school personnel, other children, other adults such as volunteers and contactors), have an obligation to report the matter to the responsible authority.

The school district rules for reporting suspected cases of child abuse are specified in the Regulation accompanying this Policy and the Child Protection Reporting and Investigation Protocol.