

1. General

- 1.1. The Board of Education recognizes that the health, safety and well-being of children and youth are fundamental to their ability to learn and thrive in school.
- 1.2. The Board is committed to providing a safe and caring learning environment that supports positive interpersonal relationships among students, staff, parents and the broader community.
- 1.3. This policy is grounded in the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) and other applicable legislation.

2. Duty to Report

- 2.1. Under section 14 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* every person who has reason to believe that a child or youth needs protection, as defined in the *Act*, has a legal duty to report the matter to a Child Protection Worker.
- 2.2. The duty to report is personal and mandatory. It cannot be delegated to another person and applies even when the information is confidential, except where protected by solicitor-client privilege.
- 2.3. Reporting concerns to a supervisor, principal, or other District employee does not discharge an individual's legal duty to report to a Child Protection Worker.
- 2.4. No person shall obstruct or discourage another person from making a report under the *Act*.

3. Collaborative Response

- 3.1. All staff share responsibility for being attentive to signs of abuse or neglect and for responding appropriately to disclosures or suspicions of harm.
- 3.2. The Board supports a coordinated and collaborative approach with community partners, including the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the RCMP, in responding to reports of child and youth abuse or neglect.
- 3.3. The District will cooperate with authorized agencies in accordance with applicable legislation.

4. Authorization

- 4.1. The Superintendent shall ensure that staff receive regular information and training regarding their duty to report under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.
- 4.2. The Superintendent shall establish protocols to guide District staff in responding to disclosures, supporting students, and coordinating with external agencies.

DRAFT