

# POLICY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

---

**Related Entries:** JHC-RA  
**Responsible Office:** Special Education and Student Services  
Department of Student Services

### Child Abuse And Neglect

#### A. PURPOSE

1. To reaffirm the Montgomery County Board of Education's commitment to cooperate with appropriate county agencies, to require MCPS staff to comply with the pertinent sections of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* in reporting suspected child abuse and neglect and to comply with all state and local legal mandates to protect children
2. To require the establishment of procedures and programs which promote staff awareness and recognition of the indicators of child abuse and neglect and inform staff of their immunity from civil liability and criminal penalty in reporting suspected child abuse or neglect
3. To provide for liaison between the Montgomery County Public Schools and the Montgomery County Government units that have responsibilities concerning child abuse and neglect

#### B. PROCESS AND CONTENT

The superintendent will be responsible for:

1. Developing procedures and programs to (1) implement this policy and (2) inform MCPS staff of their responsibility to report suspected child abuse and neglect
2. Monitoring the implementation of procedures and programs developed to implement the policy
3. Collaborating with county, state, or federal agencies to foster staff awareness and recognition of indicators of child abuse and neglect and to provide staff training regarding suspected child abuse and neglect
4. Assuring that at the beginning of each school year information about the staff's

responsibilities regarding the reporting of child abuse and neglect are reviewed with staff in all schools and centers and that all staff is informed about the immunity from civil liability and criminal penalty in reporting suspected child abuse and/or neglect

5. Assuring that regulations developed to implement this policy will provide, to the extent possible, for the protection of the identity of the person reporting
6. Disseminating to MCPS staff and the public information about procedures and programs developed to carry out this policy

**C. REVIEW AND REPORTING**

Implementation of this policy shall be evidenced by the following indicators:

1. All procedures developed to implement this policy will be sent to the Board of Education as items of information
2. The superintendent will submit to the Board of Education an annual report which will include the following:
  - a) The number of suspected child abuse and neglect cases reported by MCPS to protective services
  - b) Information on how the superintendent carried out the process listed in section B. above
  - c) Information about liaison activities regarding child abuse and neglect carried out between Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery County government units
3. This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

**Related Sources:** *Annotated Code of Maryland, Family Law Article, §§5-701 to 5-705, §§5-707, 5-708*

Resolution No. 137-80, February 12, 1980, amended by Resolution No. 853-83, October 11, 1983, amended by Resolution 333-86, June 12, 1986, and Resolution No. 458-86, August 12, 1986, accepted by Resolution No. 518-86, September 22, 1986; reviewed October 10, 2007.