



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 32 No. 1 for Board Approval
Title	Revised Policy - Vol. 32, No. 1 - March 2020 - CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
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8462 - CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

As an agency of the State, the Board of ~~Trustees~~ **Managers** is concerned with the physical and mental well-being of the children served by this Cooperative and will cooperate in the identification and reporting of cases of suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with law.

Each staff member employed by this Cooperative shall be responsible for reporting immediately every case, whether ascertained or suspected, of abuse, abandonment, cruelty, or neglect resulting in physical or mental injury to a student by other than accidental means. If a staff member has reason to believe a child is a victim of abuse or neglect, s/he shall immediately make a report to the Department of Child Services ("DCS") by calling the Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-800-5556 ~~or~~ **[x] and the** appropriate ~~local law enforcement agency~~ **[end of option]**. After making the report, the staff member shall notify the appropriate building administrator of the circumstances that led to the report that the staff member made to DCS or the police. The building administrator shall document the report and, if unable to confirm the date and time it was made and/or the identity of the person to whom the report was made, shall contact DCS or the police to ensure that they have received the report and an investigation has begun.

[x] The building administrator shall secure prompt medical attention for any such injuries reported.

Information concerning alleged abuse or neglect of a student is confidential information and is not to be shared with anyone other than the administration, DCS, **(x)** the local prosecutor **[END OF OPTION]**, **[x]** or the ~~police~~ appropriate ~~local law enforcement agency~~ **[end of option]**. ~~Unless~~ **If** the parent or a member of the household is not the subject of the investigation, the Cooperative ~~shall~~ may notify the parents that a report was made.

Failing to report suspected child abuse or neglect is a Class B misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to 180 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Building administrators should be mindful of the possibility of physical or mental abuse inflicted by a staff member. A staff member who violates this policy also may be subject to disciplinary action. Information concerning alleged abuse of a student by a teacher is confidential information and is not to be shared with anyone other than the parent(s), administration, DCS, [x] and the appropriate ~~local law enforcement agency~~ **[end of option]**. Any such instances, real or alleged, should be dealt with in accordance with the administrative guidelines established by the Director after making a report of suspected abuse or neglect as described above.

The Board requires that each Cooperative employee who is likely to have direct, ongoing contact with children within the scope of his/her employment attend or participate in training on child abuse and neglect, including:

- A. training on the duty to report suspected child abuse or neglect under I.C. 31-33-5; and
- B. training on recognizing possible signs of child abuse or neglect

at least once every two (2) years. This training may include:

[Select one or more of the options listed below]

- A. ☒ an in-person presentation;
- B. ☒ an electronic or technology based medium, including self-review modules available on an online system;
- C. ☒ an individual program of study of designated materials;
- D. ☐ ~~[insert training format]~~ _____

[END OF OPTIONS]

The training required by this policy shall count toward the Board's requirements for professional development and be provided during the Cooperative employee's contracted day or at a time chosen by the employee.

Not later than December 15, 2018 and annually thereafter, the Cooperative shall provide age appropriate and research and evidence based instruction on child abuse and child sexual abuse to students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 who attend schools operated by the Cooperative. This instruction may be delivered by a school safety specialist, school counselor, or any person with training and expertise in the area of child abuse and child sexual abuse.

Also, the Board requires each Cooperative employee who is likely to have direct, ongoing contact with children within the scope of the employee's employment to attend or participate in at least one (1) hour of training at least every two (2) years on the identification and reporting of human trafficking. The format of this training may include:

- A. ☒ an in-person presentation;
- B. ☒ an electronic or technology based medium, including self-review modules available on an online system;
- C. ☒ an individual program of study of designated materials;
- D. ☐ _____ ~~[insert other format]~~

This training shall count toward the requirements for professional development required by the Board.

A staff member who violates this policy in any way may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

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Legal	I.C. 20-26-5-35.5
	I.C. 20-28-3-4.5
	I.C. 20-28-3-7
	I.C. 20-30-5-5.7
	I.C. 31-33-1-1
	I.C. 31-33-5-1
	I.C. 31-33-5-2(b)
	I.C. 31-33-5-3
	I.C. 31-33-5-5(b)
	I.C. 31-33-22-1(a)