

**Policy Statement #1460 (Administration) of the Board of Education
Regarding the Maryland Child Abuse and Neglect Law and Calvert County Public Schools**

I. Purpose

- A. To protect Calvert County public school students who are victims of child abuse and neglect.
- B. To require that Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) informs employees, school bus drivers, and volunteers of their legal obligation to report suspected child abuse and neglect to the local department of social services or a local law enforcement agency and of their immunity from civil liability or criminal penalty in making a report.

II. Definitions

A. Abuse means:

1. The physical or mental injury of a child by anyone under circumstances that indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or at substantial risk of being harmed; or
2. Sexual abuse of a child, whether physical injuries are sustained or not.

B. Child - Any person under the age of eighteen (18) years or a student enrolled in Calvert County Public Schools

C. Employees - Individuals whose compensation is paid by the Calvert County Public Schools

D. Mental Injury - The observable, identifiable, and substantial impairment of a child's mental or psychological ability to function

E. Neglect - The leaving of a child unattended or other failure to give proper care and attention to a child by any parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for the supervision of the child under circumstances that indicate:

1. That the child's health or welfare is harmed or placed at substantial risk of harm; or
2. Mental injury to the child or a substantial risk of mental injury

F. Sexual Abuse

1. Any act that involves sexual molestation or exploitation of a child by anyone;
2. Includes, but is not limited to, incest, rape, sexual offense in any degree; sodomy; and unnatural or perverted sexual practices.

G. Volunteers - Persons who provide services for the Calvert County Public School System without receiving monetary compensation.

Administration #1460

Originally Adopted: 8/10/06

Revised: 8/13/2009; 9/6/2012; 10/8/2015; 12/13/18; 1/13/22

Page 1 of 2

III. Policy Statement

- A. The Board of Education is committed to protecting children from harm and danger. Accordingly, Calvert County Public Schools will inform employees, bus drivers, and volunteers of their legal obligation to make and the potential consequences of failing to make an oral and written report to the local department of social services or a law enforcement agency whenever they have reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse and/or neglect. Calvert County Public Schools will inform employees, bus drivers, and volunteers of their immunity from civil liability or criminal penalty when making a report. Employees making a report will also immediately notify the Superintendent or his/her designee of the suspected abuse or neglect.

IV. Delegation of Authority

- A. The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative procedures to implement this policy in accordance with all local policies and local, state, and federal laws and regulations and to communicate this policy and accompanying procedures to all relevant parties.

V. Exceptions

- A. There are no exceptions to this policy. However, the Board, by majority vote, may temporarily suspend all or part of this policy. Suspension of all or part of this policy, however, in no way relieves the Board of its obligation to comply with the pertinent local, state, and federal laws and regulations or the rules and regulations of the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education.

VI. Review

- A. This policy will be reviewed at the end of three years, or sooner, if approved by majority vote of the Board of Education in public session.

VII. Effective Date

- A. This policy is effective January 13, 2022.

Citations

State Law: Title 5 Subtitle 7 of the Family Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland § 6-202(a)(1)(ii) of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

State Reg.: COMAR 13A.12.05.02(C)(4)

Federal Law:

Adm. Reg.:

Neg. Agr.:

Other Citation:

Related Policies

1750 – Regarding Employee Discipline

Administration #1460

Originally Adopted: 8/10/06

Revised: 8/13/2009; 9/6/2012; 10/8/2015; 12/13/18; 1/13/22

Page 2 of 2