

Child Abuse Policy

The Board supports the position that all suspected instances of child abuse or neglect in this school district shall be reported and investigated.

If any school employee has reason to suspect that a child less than eighteen (18) years of age, or any physically or mentally handicapped child under twenty-one (21) years of age, has suffered any wound, injury, disability, or other condition of such nature as to cause the employee to reasonably suspect abuse or neglect of such child, the employee must report such an incident or condition to the proper authority immediately.

All reports of suspected child abuse or neglect shall be forwarded to a designated governmental agency for investigation and action as may be appropriate. Students shall be encouraged to turn to their teachers for assistance in alleviating instances of abuse or neglect.

All employees are required to personally report such knowledge or suspicion to the Montgomery County Children's Services Board of the local police department immediately. Following the report to Children's Services or the police department, the employee shall then report the case to his/her principal or supervisor.

If the principal or referring party believes that the child is in serious physical danger upon his/her return home, the police may be contacted for assistance in taking the child home. The purpose of this action is to reduce the possibility of additional abuse prior to the Children's Services Board's involvement. If the child is not in school on the next scheduled day of attendance, Children's Services is to be notified by the employee, principal, or supervisor.

The school shall cooperate with the Children's Services Board and the police department in their investigation of abuse and neglect cases to meet the special needs of the victims and their families.