



CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

The District recognizes the serious school, family and societal problems associated with child abuse and neglect. Wisconsin law requires school employees to report all suspected incidents of child abuse and/or neglect to the proper authorities within the community.

All District employees having reasonable cause to suspect that a student, seen in the course of the employee's professional duties, has been abused, threatened, or neglected, shall immediately inform, by telephone or personally, the Portage County Health and Human Services Department at (715) 345-5350, as mandated by law, and then the direct supervisor/principal. The oral report given to the agency shall include the name and age of the student, the student's home address, the parent/guardian's name or other person(s) responsible for the student's care, and the circumstances surrounding the suspected abuse or neglect.

If the Portage County Health and Human Services Department is closed, the Portage County Sheriff's Department (715) 346-1400 or police department shall be contacted. It is not the responsibility of school personnel to prove the student has been abused or neglected, only to report the suspected case(s).

No employee shall be disciplined or discharged from employment for making such a report. Failure to report suspected cases of student abuse or neglect, by those required by law to do so, is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than six (6) months or both.

Reports to the Portage County Health and Human Services Department include abuse, sexual assault, neglect, and emotional damage.

Reference:	<i>Board Policy 8462</i>	Mandatory Reporting of Student Abuse and Neglect and Threats of Violence
	<i>Wisconsin Statute:</i>	§48.981, sub. (2m)