

Reporting Child Abuse/child Protection

Any school employee who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, as defined below, shall report that information to the principal, superintendent or district designee. The principal or superintendent shall report the information immediately to the State's Attorney of the county in which the child resides or is present, to the South Dakota Department of Social Services, or to law enforcement officers.

For the purpose of this policy, an abused or neglected child means the child:

- (1) is abandoned or has been subjected to mistreatment, abuse, or physical injury by the parent, guardian, or custodian.
- (2) is lacking proper parental care through the actions or omissions of the child's parent, guardian or custodian;
- (3) is injured or threatened by the environment in which the child lives.
- (4) is refused proper or necessary subsistence, supervision, education, medical care, or any other care necessary for the child's health, guidance, or well-being by the parent, guardian, or custodian.
- (5) is homeless, without proper care, or not living with the child's parent guardian, or custodian through no fault of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian;
- (6) is threatened with substantial harm by the parent, guardian, or custodian.
- (7) is emotionally harmed or mentally injured by a parent, guardian, or custodian as evidenced by an observable and substantial impairment in the child's ability to function within the child's normal range of performance and behavior, with regard to the child's culture;
- (8) is subject to sexual abuse, sexual molestation, or sexual exploitation by the parent, guardian, or custodian.
- (9) is subject to prenatal exposure to abuse of alcohol or any controlled drug or substance not lawfully prescribed by a practitioner as authorized.