

POLICY 230: Child Abuse and Neglect

The Board of Education for School District 8 Kootenay Lake recognizes its obligation to ensure the safety and physical and emotional well-being of all students within its jurisdiction. Employees who have reason to believe that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected, or may need protection, are to promptly report the matter to a child protection social worker.

The purpose of this policy is to support a comprehensive, coordinated and collaborative approach for responding to child abuse and neglect by:

- providing child abuse prevention programs to students;
- providing school officials, employees and other persons working in schools with training in recognizing signs of child abuse and neglect;
- providing school officials, employees and other persons working in schools with direction and training on their legal obligation to report child abuse and neglect to a Child Welfare Worker under the Child, Family and Community Service Act, to the police where the child is in immediate danger, and to school officials;
- requiring school officials to investigate and report to the police allegations of child abuse involving current and former school district employees, volunteers or contract service providers;
- establishing a child abuse/neglect reporting and investigation protocol with other responsible agencies, to identify the roles and responsibilities of school officials and personnel from other agencies, in responding to allegations of child abuse or neglect; and
- providing assistance to victims of child abuse and neglect by counselling and referrals to other agencies, as appropriate.

Recognizing, reporting, investigating and dealing with abuse and neglect are addressed in a [Trilateral Protocol Agreement](#).

The Superintendent is responsible for the implementation of procedures for management of alleged sexual abuse by a student.