



<b>POLICY:</b>	SC: 08
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b>	April 25, 2000
<b>AMENDED:</b>	June 9, 2009
<b>RELATED POLICIES:</b>	
<b>REPEALS:</b>	
<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>	2011-2012

## 1.0 Objective

- 1.1 To recognize the Board's commitment to the protection of all students who attend our schools.
- 1.2 To ensure compliance with the mandatory reporting requirements under the Child and Family Services Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.C.11 (as amended) to report suspected cases of child abuse involving students under the age of 16 years to the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society (WECAS).

## 2.0 Guiding Principles

- 2.1 The Board accepts the responsibility to provide those children who are at risk with the protection they have been guaranteed by law as well as recognizing the rights of the individual being accused.

## 3.0 Specific Directives

- 3.1 The Director of Education shall establish procedures that will:
  - i) Assist staff and the school community in recognizing circumstances in which the duty to report arises;
  - ii) Establish processes for investigation and reporting.
- 3.2 The procedures established by the Director shall be readily available in each school.

## 4.0 Responsibility for Implementation

- 4.1 Any person, including those who perform professional or official duties with respect to children, who have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is in need of protection, must report their suspicion and the information on which it is based to the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society (WECAS).

- 4.2 Every person who performs professional or official duties with respect to children including, a teacher, school principal, psychologist, social worker, operator or employee of a day nursery, religious officials, priests and members of the clergy, service providers and an employee of a service provider, is guilty of an offence and subject to a fine if in contravention of the Child and Family Services Act they fail to report a suspicion and the information on which it was based was obtained in the course of his or her professional or official duties.

## **5.0 Review and Evaluation**

- 5.1 The policy shall be reviewed during the 2011-2012 policy review cycle.

## **6.0 References**

The Child and Family Services Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.C.11  
The Education Act and Regulations  
Ministry of Education Policy and Program Memorandum No. 9 (August 10, 2001)