

Wilson County Board of Education

Policy Description: Child Abuse and Neglect Page 1 of 2	Policy Number: 6.409	Amended Date: 02/04/10
	Rescinds: 400-I-L	Reviewed: 01/10 Issued: 08/96

1 REPORTING

2
3 All personnel shall be alert for any evidence of child abuse or neglect.

4
5 Child abuse is defined as any wound, injury, disability or physical or mental condition which is of such nature as
6 to reasonably indicate that it has been caused by brutality, abuse or neglect or which on the basis of available
7 information reasonably appears to have been caused by such. Staff members having knowledge or suspicion of
8 any child who is suffering from abuse or neglect shall report such harm immediately.^{1 2} The report shall be
9 made to the judge having juvenile jurisdiction or to the county office of the Department of Human Services or to
10 the office of the chief law enforcement official where the child resides.¹

11
12 The report shall include:

- 13
14 1. The name, address and age of the child;
15 2. The name and address of the parents or persons having custody of the child;
16 3. The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect; and
17 4. Any evidence to the cause or any other information that may relate to the cause or extent of the abuse
18 or neglect.¹

19
20 The person reporting shall be immune from liability and his identity shall remain confidential except when the
21 juvenile court determines otherwise.³

22
23 The Director of Schools shall develop reporting procedures, including sample indicators of abuse and neglect
24 and shall disseminate the procedures to all school personnel.⁴ However, nothing in the reporting procedures
25 shall eliminate the staff member's legal responsibility to directly make a report to the authorities stated above.⁵

¹ TCA 37-1-403(a)

² TCA 37-1-412

³ TCA 37-1-409

⁴ TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.08(2)(e)

⁵ TCA 37-1-403(h)

1 **INVESTIGATIONS**

2
3 School administrators and employees have a duty to cooperate, provide assistance and information in child
4 abuse investigations¹ including permitting child abuse review teams to conduct interviews while the child is at
5 school; the principal may control the time, place and circumstances of the interview, but may not insist that a
6 school employee be present even if the suspected abuser is a school employee or another student. The
7 principal is not in violation of any laws by failing to inform parents/guardians that the child is to be interviewed
8 even if the suspected abuser is not a member of the child's household.²



¹ TCA 37-1-611(b)

² Tenn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 87-101 (June 9, 1987)