

## POLICY 5.3 Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and/or Child Neglect Substantive Changes

Page	Section	Change	Reason
1	Paragraph 1	Added-"A child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care"	To comply with a change to F. S. 39.201, effective July 1, 2006
1	Paragraph 2	Added - Concern that a child has been sexually or physically abused by a person who is not a parent, legal custodian, caregiver or other person responsible for a child's welfare shall be reported to law enforcement immediately.	To address recommendations of the State Attorney's Office that reports to law enforcement will be made on a timely basis when the FL abuse hotline refuses a report involving possible criminal actions against a child by a person who is not a caregiver.
1	Paragraph 3	Deleted - In addition to the above requirement, reports alleging that the perpetrator of the abuse, abandonment, or neglect is an employee of the school district, shall also be made directly by the hotline reporter to the local law enforcement jurisdiction. The principal shall notify the Board's Professional Standards & Special Investigative Unit so a joint investigation can be conducted.	To comply with a change to F.S. 39.01(46) which again defines "other person responsible for a child's welfare" to include an employee of any school for the purpose of mandatory reporting, effective July 1, 2006. The FL abuse hotline accepts these reports for investigation. The reports are transmitted to the Broward Sheriff's Office, Child Abuse Investigations Section, Institutional Abuse Unit. The Unit contacts the appropriate law enforcement jurisdiction for criminal investigation and the School Board Special Investigative Unit for administrative investigation and collaboration.
1	Paragraph 4	Added- "A child in need of supervision and care " and rearranged the sentence.	Changed to comply with F.S. 39 and provide clarity.
1	Paragraph 5	Deleted- Language related to liability for disclosing information and added language related to penalties for failure to report known or suspected child abuse.	This is a policy on mandatory reporting, not a policy on confidentiality.
1	Paragraph 6	Deleted - Implementation of this policy shall be in accordance with The School Board Critical Resource Manual Student Welfare Situation Suspected Child Abuse.	The Critical Resource Manual is available to administrators, and is not available to any School Board employee who is required to act according to this policy. The manual will continue to provide direction to administrators, and separate procedural guidelines will continue to direct child abuse designees in the implementation of this policy.