



Department: Human Resources
Section: Employee and Labour Relations

The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board recognizes the obligation of school community members to report information relating to children suspected to be in need of protective services in compliance with the ***Children and Family Services Act (Nova Scotia)***.

Specifically

- 1.0 A school community member is defined in the *School Code of Conduct* as all adults whose role or jobs place them in contact with students in school settings and school activities. "All adults" includes all administrative, teaching, and support staff in any capacity, board members, parents, community groups, school parental organizations or any person associated with the school system in any capacity, including volunteers and contract employees.
- 2.0 The school community member is responsible for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect to the appropriate agency in compliance with legislation.
- 3.0 The duty of the school community member is only to report information to an agency. It is recognized that the investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect is the role of a child welfare agency or police, in the case of criminal investigation. The school community member must not interfere with the statutory roles and responsibilities of child welfare agency staff and police.
- 4.0 The reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect is to be made in the strictest of confidence.
- 5.0 The Board, through the Human Resources Department, is responsible for ensuring that all school community members, including employees, board members, parents, volunteers, community groups, parent organizations or others having contact with students in the school system, understand their rights, role and responsibilities with respect to reporting protocol: suspected child abuse.

Monitoring

- The Director of Human Resources is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and revision of this policy.
- This policy will be monitored annually.

Board Approved: April 6/04
Ref: AP 305.12
Monitoring Date: Annually
Revised: