

General Personnel

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

The Cooperative employee who suspects or receives knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected child or, for a student aged 18 through 21, an abused or neglected individual with a disability, shall: (1) immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on its Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)(within Illinois); 1-217-524-2606 (outside of Illinois); or 1-800-358-5117 (TTY), and (2) follow directions given by DCFS concerning filing a written report within 48 hours with the nearest DCFS field office. Any Cooperative employee who believes a student is in immediate danger of harm, shall first call 911. The employee shall also promptly notify the Executive Director or Program Administrator/Building Principal that a report has been made. The Executive Director or Program Administrator/Building Principal shall immediately coordinate any necessary notifications to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with DCFS, the applicable school resource officer (SRO), and/or local law enforcement.

Any Cooperative employee who discovers child pornography on electronic and information technology equipment shall immediately report it to local law enforcement, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) or online at report.cybertip.org/ or www.cybertipline.com. The Executive Director or Program Administrator/Building Principal shall also be promptly notified of the discovery and that a report has been made.

Any Cooperative employee who observes any act of hazing that does bodily harm to a student must report that act to the Program Administrator, Building Principal, Executive Director, or designee who will investigate and take appropriate action. If the hazing results in death or great bodily harm, the employee must first make the report to law enforcement and then to the Executive Director or Program Administrator/Building Principal. Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed to or required of a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any group, organization, club, or athletic team whose members are or include other students.

Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA), School Code, and Erin's Law Training

The Executive Director or designee shall provide staff development opportunities for Cooperative employees in the detection, reporting, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

All Cooperative employees shall:

1. Before beginning employment, sign the *Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status* form provided by DCFS. The Executive Director designee shall ensure that the signed forms are retained.
2. Complete mandated reporter training as required by law within one year of initial employment and at least every five years after that date.

The Executive Director will encourage all Cooperative educators to complete continuing professional development that addresses the traits and identifiers that may be evident in students who are victims of child sexual abuse, including recognizing and reporting child sexual abuse and providing appropriate follow-up and care for abused students as they return to the classroom setting.

Special Executive Director Responsibilities

The Executive Director shall execute the requirements in Board policy 5:150, *Personnel Records*, whenever another school district requests a reference concerning an applicant who is or was a Cooperative employee and was the subject of a report made by a Cooperative employee to DCFS.

The Executive Director shall notify the State Superintendent and the Regional Superintendent in writing when he or she has reasonable cause to believe that a license holder was dismissed or resigned from the Cooperative as a result of an act that made a child an abused or neglected child. The Executive Director must make the report within 30 days of the dismissal or resignation and mail a copy of the notification to the license holder.

Special Board Member Responsibilities

Each individual Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in the Act, direct or cause the Board to direct the Executive Director or other equivalent school administrator to comply with the Act's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-21.9.
20 ILCS 1305/1-1 *et seq.*, Department of Human Services Act.
325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.
720 ILCS 5/12C-50.1, Criminal Code of 2012.

CROSS REF.: 2:20 (Powers and Duties of Cooperative Boards), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:250 (Community Resource Persons and Volunteers), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews)

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