
Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

Any school employee, volunteer, or contracted service provider having reason to suspect that a child is being or has been abused or neglected shall immediately report his/her suspicions to the New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) at (800) 894-5533 and to the director and/or his/her designee. The director and/or designee shall then immediately notify the appropriate local police department.

If requested by DCYF, the reporting employee within forty-eight (48) hours must follow the oral report with a written report. The report should contain the name and address of the child suspected of being abused or neglected; the person responsible for the child's welfare; the specific information indicating neglect/abuse or the nature and extent of the child's injuries (including any evidence of previous injuries); the identity of the person or persons suspected of being responsible for such neglect or abuse; and any other information that might be helpful in establishing neglect or abuse or that may be required by DCYF. The reporting employee shall provide the director and/or his/her designee a copy of the written report.

The board recommends all Next Charter School employees, designated volunteers, and contracted service providers receive routine training or information on how to identify child abuse or neglect.

It is not the responsibility of the school employee to investigate whether the child has been abused or neglected. All investigations will be left up to DCYF and/or the local police department.

The director and/or his/her designee shall post a sign in a clearly visible location in a public area within the school that is readily accessible to students, in the form provided by DCYF that contains instructions on how to report child abuse or neglect, including the phone number for filing reports and information on accessing DCYF's website.