

<b>SCHOOL SERVICES</b>	<b>6000</b>
<b>REPORTING OF CHILDREN IN NEED OF PROTECTION POLICY</b>	<b>6040</b>

1. Rationale

School staff work closely with children and have a special awareness of the signs of child abuse and neglect, and an obligation to report their suspicions to the Children’s Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay (CAS) or Dilico Anishinabek Family Care (Dilico).

The Ministry of Education has directed that school board policies and procedures on reporting suspected cases of children in need of protection conform to the provisions of the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017.

2. Policy

It is the policy of Lakehead District School Board that if a person (including all employees and those performing professional or official duties with respect to children), has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is, or may be, in need of protection, they shall immediately report this information without delay to a children’s aid society.

3. Guiding Principles

3.1 Duty to Report and Legal Responsibility

3.1.1 If an employee or person, including a person who performs professional or official duties with respect to children, has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is, or may be, in need of protection then they must report this information without delay to a children’s aid society.

3.1.2 A person who has a duty to report a matter shall make the report directly to a children’s aid society and shall not rely on any other person to report on their behalf.

3.1.3 A person who has additional reasonable grounds to suspect that child abuse or neglect may have occurred, or is likely to occur, shall make a further report even if they have made previous reports with respect to the same child.

3.1.4 A duty to report does not apply in respect of a child who is 16 or 17 years old, but a person may make a report in respect of a child who is 16 or 17 years old if reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is, or may be, in need of protection.

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4. Review

The policy shall be reviewed in accordance with 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy.

<u>Cross Reference</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Legal Reference</u>
Procedures 6040	June 23, 1987	Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017
Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 9, August 10, 2001, "Reporting of Children in Need of Protection"	<u>Date Revised</u> April 22, 2003 November 23, 2010 November 27, 2018	Student Protection Act, 2002 Teacher Profession Act, 1990 Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2
The Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse and Neglect – a Coordinated Response in the District of Thunder Bay, April 2015		Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 12