

<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 a children’s aid society.

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.
- 3.1.5 Every person in the educational system has a legal responsibility to report suspected child abuse/neglect to a children’s aid society when they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may become in need of protection.

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

3.2 Privacy and Confidentiality

- 3.2.1 The duty of an employee or a person, including those performing professional or official duties with respect to children, to make a report overrides the provisions of any other provincial statute that would otherwise prohibit the professional or official from disclosing confidential or privileged information.
- 3.2.2 In all cases of suspected child abuse or neglect, employees or persons, including those performing professional or official duties with respect to children, shall respect the privacy of all individuals involved and the confidentiality of all discussions and reports.
- 3.2.3 Nothing abrogates any privilege that may exist between a lawyer and the lawyer's client.

3.3 Liability

- 3.3.1 No action for making a report shall be instituted against a person who acts in accordance with the duty to report unless the person acts maliciously or without reasonable grounds for the suspicion.
- 3.3.2 A person performing professional or official duties with respect to children, who does not report the suspicion that a child is in need, or may be in need of protection based on information obtained in the course of their professional/official duties, and is convicted of the offence, is liable to a fine.

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

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>
<p>Procedures 6040 Reporting of Children in Need of Protection</p>	<p>June 23, 1987</p>	<p>Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017</p>
<p>The Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse and Neglect – a Coordinated Response in the District of Thunder Bay.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Date Revised</u></p> <p>April 22, 2003 November 23, 2010 November 27, 2018 May 19, 2026</p>	<p>Policy/Program Memorandum 9 – Reporting of Children in Need of Protection</p> <p>Student Protection Act, 2002</p> <p>Teacher Profession Act, 1990</p> <p>Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2</p> <p>Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 12</p>