

Mandatory Reporting

In order to protect children whose health and well-being may be adversely affected through the infliction, by other than accidental means, of harm through physical injury or neglect, mental injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or maltreatment, the legislature requires the reporting of these cases by school teachers and school administrative staff members of public and private schools. It is not the intent of the legislature that persons required to report suspected child abuse or neglect under this chapter investigate the suspected child abuse or neglect before they make the required report to OCS. Reports must be made when there is a reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect in order to make state investigative and social services available in a wider range of cases at an earlier point in time, to make sure that investigations regarding child abuse and neglect are conducted by trained investigators, and to avoid subjecting a child to multiple interviews about the abuse or neglect. Protective services will be made available in an effort to:

1. prevent further harm to the child
 2. safeguard and enhance the general well-being of children in this state
 3. preserve family life unless that effort is likely to result in physical or emotional damage to the child
- Immediately notify your site administrator, OCS, and other agencies as appropriate
 - Document, document, document!



Resources

If you need more information or have questions, please contact your building principal, the KPBSD human resources director, or a member of KPEA's executive board.

Online links with additional information:

- ◆ [BP 1114 Communication Using Electronic Media](#)
- ◆ [BP 6161.4 Acceptable Use Policy-Internet Safety Policy](#)
- ◆ [AR 6161.4 Acceptable Use Policy-Internet Safety Policy](#)
- ◆ [BP 4119.21 Code of Ethics](#)
- ◆ [BP 5030 School Discipline and Safety](#)
- ◆ [BP 5137 Positive School Climate](#)
- ◆ [Professional Teaching Practices Commission](#)
- ◆ [Code of Ethics of the Education Profession](#)
- ◆ [NEA Code of Ethics](#)
- ◆ [AS 47.17.020 Persons Required to Report](#)
- ◆ [OCS Standards & Practices Handbook](#)

Office of Children's Services

Homer: 907-235-7114
Kenai: 907-283-3136
Seward: 907-224-5236

Connecting with Students

"Kenai Peninsula Borough School District administration appreciates the effort and commitment our professional staff members make to ensure the best educational experience for our students. This brochure serves as a reminder of guidelines to be used when communicating verbally and electronically with all of our students. Thank you for everything you do."

-- Sean Dusek, Superintendent



**Kenai Peninsula Borough
School District**

907.714.8888

**148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, Alaska 99669**



Social Media

- ◆ School-based social sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, and so forth must have building and district-level approval and access
- ◆ Consider the professional implication of what your personal social media conveys
- ◆ Use discretion when allowing students to connect with your personal social media
- ◆ Privacy settings do not ensure confidentiality
- ◆ All district communications (even deleted correspondence) may be subject to administrator or public review

Electronic Communications

- ◆ Content should ONLY be for educational and district-related purposes
- ◆ Apprise your building principal, parents, and guardians about how you will communicate with students
- ◆ Only use apps that permanently track sent and received messages. For example, "Snap Chat" is not an appropriate resource to communicate with students
- ◆ Be aware of time of the day you communicate with students
- ◆ Be sure information is clearly stated and would be viewed as appropriate if read as a standalone message

Situational Awareness and Procedures

- ◆ Students who are under your care must be supervised at ALL times
- ◆ If a student is struggling with a personal issue, refer him or her to the appropriate resource (school counselor, outside agency)
- ◆ Work with students in highly visible environments, except as may be required to safeguard student privacy or confidentiality
- ◆ Secure district and parental approval regarding all school-sponsored activities, including school activities occurring off of school property
- ◆ Ensure appropriate inspections, reviews and documentation are completed prior to off-site events, such as field trips or sporting events
- ◆ Immediately report to your supervisor any situation that may potentially lead to allegations of misconduct or misunderstanding
- ◆ Hugs are a common occurrence, especially at the elementary level. Use developmentally and age-appropriate guidelines to direct your actions

- ◆ Do not engage in activities that may reasonably raise concerns as to propriety or are directed towards developing a relationship with a student beyond the recognized boundaries of a teacher-student relationship regardless of the student's age
- ◆ Do not place yourself in situations which could be construed as posing a risk to the student or facilitating an inappropriate relationship with students
- ◆ Be sure that your interactions in the community reflect a high level of professionalism

Alaska Safe Children's Act

In 2015 the Alaska legislature instituted [Alaska Safe Children's Act](#) incorporating additional trainings and education related to sexual abuse and sexual assault, dating violence and abuse awareness prevention which teaches:

- ◇ Students in Pre-K to 12th grade must be taught age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and to tell a trusted adult
- ◇ Parents and guardians must receive information about the warning signs of child sexual abuse, resource referrals, and information to support families or children who experience sexual abuse
- ◇ School personnel must be regularly trained to identify and report child sexual abuse

Professional Teaching Practices

The Professional Teaching Practices Commission's (PTPC) intent is to serve as a preventative and positive force in helping enhance the professional performance of all educators so that the public's right to the best education possible for all of Alaska's students is adequately protected.

In 1966, the education profession in the state of Alaska was granted the right and responsibility to define and to enforce ethical standards of its members. The Alaska Legislature established and empowered a nine-member commission to impose sanctions against the certificates of educators who engage in illegal, immoral, or unethical conduct.

