

TERRELL COUNTY BOARD POLICY
Child Abuse and Neglect

Descriptive Code: JGI
Date: 3/12/2012
Rescinds Code: JGI
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In fulfillment of the mandate which requires Georgia educators to report suspected child abuse and neglect, The Terrell County Board of Education has established a procedural guideline policy for making reports within the local school system.

All certified employees of the Terrell County Board of Education, including but not limited to all teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, social workers and school psychologists employed by the Terrell County Board of Education, who have reason or cause to believe that a child is being or has been abused shall report that abuse in accordance with Georgia law and the protocol for handing child abuse cases for Terrell County, Georgia.

The report must be made "immediately, but in no case later than twenty four hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused."

When appropriate and needed, photographs of the child's injuries, to be used as documentation in the support of allegations, may be taken without the permission of the child's parent or guardian. Such photographs shall be made available as soon as possible to the appropriate investigating authority, either DFCS/DHR or law enforcement.

Local personnel shall observe the following guidelines:

The school social worker is the superintendent's designee to receive reports from school system personnel who have reasonable cause to believe that any student under 18 years of age has been abused or neglected.

The school social worker shall immediately report the suspected abuse or neglect to the Department of Family and Children Services in which the student lives and shall notify the school system superintendent of all referrals. The school social worker shall be the school liaison with the Department of Family and Children staff in relation to the child's school performance and adjustment.

All school personnel who have contact with students shall receive training in the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect in the form of written information.