

In-Service Agenda



 Mandatory reporting of suspected abuse/neglect

Reporting of suicidal or homicidal ideations



School Social Workers...



School Social Workers serve as a link between the student, family, and school to address concerns that adversely affect student achievement.

School Social Workers are the designated reporters of suspected abuse for the DeKalb County School District.



Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse



O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 requires <u>all</u> employees and volunteers who work with children to report suspected abuse or neglect of children.

You can be charged with a crime if you do not report suspected abuse or neglect.



Indicators of Physical Abuse



- Bite marks
- Patterned bruises or bruises in the shape of items
- Welts
- Scratches
- Patterned and immersion burns
- Unexplained fractures/dislocations
- Bald spots on the scalp



Indicators of Neglect



- Hoarding or begging for food
- Poor hygiene (being unclean or unkempt)
- Wearing inappropriate clothing for the weather
- Having un-met medical, emotional, or mental health needs
- Having frequent unexcused absences
- Inadequate Supervision



Indicators of Sexual Abuse



- Difficulty sitting or walking
- Pain or itching in the genital area
- Play behavior with sexual overtones
- Advanced knowledge of sexual activity
- Sudden fear of people, places, or specific activities
- Sudden change in patterns of behavior or socialization



Procedures for Reporting Suspected Abuse



 Report any suspicion of abuse to the school counselor or administrator <u>immediately</u>.

 Keep all information about the child confidential (do not discuss the incident with other teachers or volunteers)



Suicidal or Homicidal Ideations or Gestures



- Report any threats, observations, or concerns of self-harm or harm to others to the school counselor or administrator immediately
- Keep all information about the student and/or incident confidential
- The student should be supervised at all times



Summary



 Report the following concerns to a counselor or administrator <u>immediately</u>:

- Suspected abuse or neglect
- Suicidal or homicidal ideations





Thank you for your service to the children of the DeKalb County School District!

If you have any questions about any of the information provided, please contact the school social worker, the counselor, or the building administrator.

