APS Policy Review Team
2110 Washington Blvd
Arlington, VA 22204

TO: Arlington School Board
FROM: Policy Review Team
THROUGH: Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
DATE: December 5, 2025
RE: Proposed Revisions to Policy J-8.7 Safety of Students and Child Abuse and Neglect-Child Protective Services

This policy is being revised as part of its regular 5-year review and is scheduled for Board Information on December 18.

Staff are proposing the following changes to J-8.7 Safety of Students and Child Abuse and Neglect-Child Protective Services.

- Require reporting to happen no later than 24 hours.
- Require notification of the school principal and completion of APS documentation after the report has been made to CPS.
- Prohibit retaliation against a mandated reporter contacting CPS in good faith.
- Better clarify the process and responsibilities for CPS interviews offsite.
- Minor technical changes.

This policy was reviewed by the Policy Review Team and the Policy Subcommittee and was posted for public comment.

Arlington Public Schools shall maintain safe conditions on school property and provide appropriate safeguards for the protection of students. All students should have the right to learn in a safe and protective learning environment.

All Arlington Public Schools staff are mandated reporters in matters related to suspected child abuse or neglect. An abused or neglected child shall mean any child fewer than eighteen years of age whose parents or other person responsible for his care creates or inflicts, threatens to create or inflict, or allows to be created or inflicted upon such child a physical or mental injury by other than accidental means, or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, impairment of bodily or mental functions; neglects or refuses to provide care necessary for his health; abandons such child; or commits or allows to be committed any sexual act upon a child in violation of law.

Any employee of the Arlington Public Schools, who observes any evidence or has any suspicion of physical, sexual, or mental abuse or neglect of a child shall immediately report this to Child Protective Services as soon as they have that suspicion, but no later than 24 hours afterwards. The report shall be made to the Child Protective Services Unit of the Department of Human Services or to the Virginia Department of Social Services Mandated Reporter Portal by the Arlington Public Schools' employee who observed any evidence or has any suspicion of abuse and/or neglect (e.g. teacher, assistant, bus driver, food services worker, etc.). The employee shall then notify the school principal or designee and complete any required documentation. As part of an initial report, Arlington Public Schools staff must provide Child Protective Services with all requested information.

Retaliation against any mandated reported for contacting Child Protective Services in good faith is prohibited.

In cases where the Child Protective Services Unit of the Department of Human Services transmits to the school principal, or designee, orally or in writing, a complaint from sources outside the school of alleged neglect, mental or physical abuse of a student, the principal, or designee, shall allow the student to be interviewed by the Child Protective Services Unit or Police Department, with or without parent or guardian approval, as stipulated by the investigator from the Child Protective Services Unit.

The investigator must provide identification to the satisfaction of the principal or designee. The interview process can occur during the school day and on school property, with or without the presence of school staff, as stipulated by the investigator. The principal or designee is to assist the investigator in locating the student and in arranging a private area for the interview.

The principal or designee is to ensure that the student is returned to class. In some instances, the interview process may require that the student be transported to another facility in Arlington County. When this occurs, the principal must request the appropriate documentation from the investigator. The student will only be released for the offsite interview when the appropriate documentation has been provided. The principal will offer to have an Arlington Public Schools staff member accompany the student to the offsite interview, if the investigator and the student approve. If the staff member accompanies the student, they may not interfere in the interview process. The information gathered in the interview between the investigator and the student is confidential. When the student is returned to Arlington Public Schools, the principal or designee

will talk with the student to ensure that they are able to return to class successfully before being brought back to a classroom environment.

Reference

Code of Virginia §63.1-248.3(A)
School Board Policy K-2.3 Interviewing Students

Policy Adoption and Revision History

Adopted October 20, 2011, Effective October 20, 2011
Renumbered (former Policy 25-1.11) effective July 1, 2018
Amended August 30, 2018, effective August 30, 2018

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The investigator must provide identification to the satisfaction of the principal or designee. The interview process can occur during the school day and on school property, with or without the presence of school staff, as stipulated by the investigator. The principal or designee is to assist the investigator in locating the student and in arranging a private area for the interview. ~~The student is free to deny the request for an interview and must be so advised at the beginning of the conference in the presence of the authorized investigator.~~

~~The investigator is to notify the principal or designee when the interview with the student is completed.~~ The principal or designee is to ensure that the student is returned to class. In some instances, the interview process may require that the student be transported to another facility in Arlington County. When this occurs, the principal must request the appropriate documentation from the investigator. The student will only be released for the offsite interview when the appropriate documentation has been provided. The principal will offer to have an Arlington Public Schools staff member accompany the student to the offsite interview, if the investigator and the

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