

POLICY

Queen Anne's County Public Schools

POLICY TITLE: Delinquent Acts of a Serious Nature and Sexual Abuse/Assault Reporting	
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: Revision: February 5, 2014	
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: Students, Personnel	
Amendment:	

A. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to require all employees of the Queen Anne's County Public Schools to inform a school official when they have reason to suspect student delinquent acts of a serious nature, and sexual abuse/assault, or any other action that would place the student or others at harm.

B. Policy Statement

The acts' delineated in the policy are offenses committed by a person who is under 18 years old which would be crimes if committed by an adult. They are of a serious enough nature that even suspicion or threat of such an action should be reported immediately.

C. Rationale

There are times when a student's behavior presents an imminent danger to self or others and it is important that faculty and staff report these issues immediately.

D. Definitions

1. "Delinquent acts" are offenses committed by a person who is under 18 years old which would be crimes if committed by an adult. The law requires school officials to promptly report to the responsible law enforcement agencies all delinquent acts coming to their attention whether occurring on or away from the school premises which involve students attending the particular school.

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“Delinquent acts” subject to this regulation include, but are not limited to, sexual abuse or sexual assault whether physical injuries are sustained or not, possession of weapons/explosives/hazardous materials, arson - false emergencies or alarms, vandalism or theft over one-hundred dollars (\$100.00), possession of controlled dangerous substances, and possession of a firearm.

3. “Any other action that would place the student or others at harm” include threats of suicide, non-specific threats of violence, or any other threat that could be deemed concerning if followed through.

E. Implementation Guidelines

1. Employees who receive reports of, or who know of incidents of, alleged or suspected sexual abuse/assault, whether adult on student or student on student, or delinquent acts of a serious nature, or other acts that would place the student or others at harm are required to immediately report such allegations or suspicions to a school official who in turn are charged with reporting to the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office. Allegations of sexual abuse or sexual assault also require an immediate report to the Department of Social Services.

2. Immediately following notification to the Sheriff's Office, or concurrent with the notification, professional staff will report all pertinent information to the school principal or designee.

3. Following notification to the Sheriff's Office, the school principal or designee will contact the Office of the Superintendent and the appropriate Director and, report all pertinent information.

4. All student conduct of a serious nature, whether delinquent acts or conduct which has been traditionally treated as a matter of discipline to be handled administratively by the particular school should be promptly reported to the parents or guardians of the student concerned, and to the parents or guardians of the alleged student victim if any is involved. If parent or guardian is not available then the parent/guardian will be notified as soon as possible.

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5. Staff members who received initial information of alleged or suspected sexual abuse or assault or delinquent acts of a serious nature will complete within 48 hours after oral report, a written report for sexual abuse./assault or serious misconduct to:

- (a) the Office of the Superintendent; and
- (b) the Department of Social Services when sexual abuse or assault is suspected.

6. In preparing the report of suspicion of sexual abuse or assault, the following in-school procedures are to be followed:

- (a) Professional school personnel may examine and/or question the child only as necessary to verify injury and the possibility that such injury was caused by the child's permanent or temporary caretaker.
- (b) No attempts should be made to validate the suspicion. If one is in doubt about reporting a suspected situation it is to be resolved in favor of the child and the report made immediately.

7. Failure to adhere to this policy will lead to actions up to and including termination.

F. Evaluation

The Superintendent will provide the Board of Education a review of this policy in 2017. The focus of this review will be the effectiveness of the elements of this policy in assisting the Board in fulfilling its mission.

G. References

COMAR §13A.08.01.08, .11, .12, .12-1, 14, .15, .17 - .20