

Policy for Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

Bridges Community Academy (BCA) follows the requirements of ORC 2151.421.

All school employees have completed training which defines child abuse and neglect and the obligation to make a report when there is knowledge of abuse and/or neglect or reasonable cause of suspicion.

BCA's reporting procedures are as follows:

Any school employee who has knowledge of abuse and/or neglect or reasonable cause of suspicion, will immediately make an oral report to Seneca County Division of Job and Family Services, Children's Services. The employee will also immediately inform the Director or building designee in the absence of the director.

The employee will provide written documentation of the report using the designated form within 24 hours of the report.

The director, building designee will produce a report in writing upon request of official agencies contacted to investigate the case.

In a case of the appearance of physical injury, two like gender school personnel will examine the child and document the finding with a written description and photos if possible.

School personnel are the means to reach the appropriate agencies; therefore, school personnel will not pressure a child to divulge information regarding an injury and/or other circumstances surrounding the alleged abuse and/or neglect.

School personnel will not contact a student's family regarding the alleged abuse nor engage in any investigation to determine cause of the suspected abuse or neglect.

A student will not be removed from school premises without parental permission unless a court order for emergency custody has been issued or the student has been taken into protected custody by law enforcement with jurisdiction.

If an agent of Children Services needs to perform an immediate examination of the student, it will be attended by appropriate school personnel, the director, or building designee.