

**Section 6A: Safe and Inclusive Schools**

**Policy 6.02: Child Abuse (Maltreatment) Prevention and Reporting Policy**

**Supporting Policies:**

[4.07 Employee Ethics](#)

**Supporting Procedures:**

[ADSB Anti-Human Trafficking Procedure](#)

**Supporting Protocols and Guidelines:**

[Child Abuse Protocol Between Children's Aid Society of Algoma and Algoma District School Board](#)  
[ADSB - Anti-Human Trafficking Guideline](#)

**Supporting Templates and Forms:**

[School Report to the Children's Aid Society \(CAS\) Form](#)

**Other Resources:**

Child, Youth and Family Services Act

Child and Family Services Act

Erin's Law (Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Reporting), 2024

PPM 166 - Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols

*Approved by Board Resolution #154-1998 06 23*

*Approved by Board Resolution #111-2014 06 17*

*Approved by Board Resolution #060-2023 05 30*

*Approved by Board Resolution #010-2026 02 24*

---

**1 Background:**

For personal safety, it is important for all students to be educated annually, in a developmentally appropriate manner about child sexual abuse prevention and reporting, and that staff, parents, and guardians are informed and supported in recognizing and responding to child sexual abuse. This policy is established in accordance with Section 170.0.1 of the Education Act, as amended by Erin's Law (S.O. 2024, c. 33).

The Child, Youth, and Family Services Act contains provisions for reporting a child who is or may be in need of protection. If any person – including a person who performs professional or official duties with respect to children – has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection, the act requires that the person report their suspicions 'immediately' to a children's aid society to provide the information on which the suspicions are based.

Reasonable grounds may include, but are not limited to, any manner of physical, psychological, social - emotional or sexual maltreatment of a child whereby the survival, safety, self-esteem, or growth and development of the child is endangered. This includes the risk that:

- The child has suffered or there is a substantial risk that the child will suffer physical harm



- The child has been or there is a substantial risk that the child will be sexually molested or sexually assaulted
- The child has suffered or there is a substantial risk that the child is likely to suffer emotional harm.

## **2 Policy Statement:**

All Algoma District School Board staff who, in the course of performing their professional or official duties, suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection, must report this information without delay as per established reporting protocols. Staff must report directly and not rely on or delegate anyone else to report on their behalf.

Similarly, the Algoma District School Board recognizes that the duty to report applies although the information reported would normally be considered confidential or privileged, and no action for making the report shall be instituted against a person who acts in accordance with these requirements unless the person acts maliciously or without reasonable grounds for the belief or suspicion.

The duty to report continues to be an ongoing obligation. If a person has made a report to a child protection agency and has additional reasonable grounds to suspect that the child is or may be in need of protection, that person must make a further report.

## **3 Reporting:**

All Algoma District School Board employees dealing with suspected cases of child maltreatment are directed to the appropriate procedures that have been developed in accordance with this policy. These procedures are contained in the Child Abuse Protocol Between Children's Aid Society and Algoma District School Board.

## **4 Prevention – Educating Staff, Students and Parents/Guardians:**

### **4.1 Student Education**

All students shall receive annually, age-appropriate instruction on child sex abuse prevention and reporting including:

- Recognizing signs of child sexual abuse.
- How and where to report abuse to a trusted adult.

### **4.2 Parent and Guardian Engagement**

The board shall provide accessible information to all parents/guardians, regarding child sexual abuse prevention and reporting, including information on available counselling and resources for children who are sexually abused.

### **4.3 Staff Training**

All school-based staff shall receive annual training on:

- Recognizing and responding to signs of child sexual abuse.
- Legal obligations under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act (e.g., duty to report).
- Available counselling and resource supports and referral pathways for students.