

**POLICY S28**

**REPORTS OF SEXUALLY INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AGAINST STUDENTS**

**DATE ADOPTED: February 21, 2021**

**Student Reporting of Alleged Sexually Inappropriate Behavior**

This policy is adopted pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.7.

All students, parents, relatives and friends of students are encouraged to make an oral report of an incident when a student has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator, other school system employee, or volunteer affiliated with the school. This oral report may be made to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school.

Any teacher, counselor or administrator receiving a report of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator, other employee, or volunteer affiliated with the school shall make an oral report of the incident immediately by telephone or otherwise to the school leader, and shall submit a written report of the incident to the school principal or principal's designee within 24 hours. If the school leader is the person accused of the sexual abuse or sexual misconduct, the oral and written reports should be made to the Board Chair or the Board's designee.

The School Leader, upon receiving a report of sexual abuse as defined in O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5 shall make an oral report to the appropriate authorities immediately, but in no later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused. The report should be made by telephone and followed by a written report, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Resources, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney.

Reports of acts of sexual misconduct against a student by a teacher, administrator, other employee, or volunteer not covered by O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5 or O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1184 shall be investigated immediately by school personnel. If the investigation of the allegation of sexual misconduct indicates a reasonable cause to believe that the report of sexual misconduct is valid, the school leader shall make an immediate written report to the Chair of the Board, the Professional Standards Commission Ethics Division (if applicable) and any other outside authorities.