

## **REPORTING CHILD ABUSE**

The Harvard Public Schools affirm its responsibility to provide for the safety and well-being of students. This responsibility extends to complying with the Massachusetts Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Statute, Chapter 119, Section 51A. The Harvard Public Schools recognizes that because of its sustained contact with school-age children, school employees will actively carry out the letter and spirit of the law. It is expected then, that when any staff member in his/her professional capacity, has reasonable cause to believe that a child under the age of eighteen years is suffering from the effects of any form of child abuse and neglect, that the staff member will report their concerns to the Building Principal for consideration of reporting to the Department of Social Services.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [119:51A](#)

CROSS REF: Staff Handbooks

Approved: September 22, 2008