TWO RIVERS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

Mandated Reporter Training

Preventing & Addressing Sexual Abuse

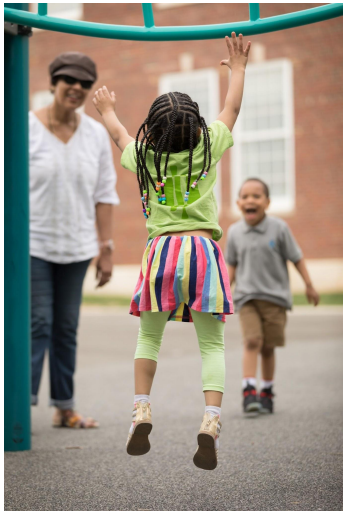
2026

Two Rivers Mission

To nurture a diverse group of students to become lifelong, active participants in their own education, develop a sense of self and community, and become responsible and compassionate members of society.

Two Rivers Goal

When students graduate from Two Rivers, they will have the cognitive and social skills to succeed in high school and college, so that they are positioned to have rich and varied options for their future.



Core Values



BE THOUGHTFUL.



EXPERIENCE AND GROW.



GIVE ACCESS.



NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS.



LEARN BETTER TOGETHER.

Race and Equity Vision Statement

"Our Vision Statement reminds us what we mean by nurturing a diverse group of students…"

We commit to being a socially responsive, anti-racist institution that celebrates, respects, and uplifts all children and adults. As such, we stand firm on eliminating the inequities found in our academic and culture data. We address, dismantle, and critically reflect to hold ourselves and others accountable to better provide a safe learning environment where all community members have a voice and feel a sense of belonging. Through these adaptive shifts, we aim to eliminate all forms of white privilege, oppression, systemic racism, and discrimination in our network and community.

Agenda

TWO RIVERS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

TOPIC	TIME
Mandatory Reporter Role	5 minutes
Defining Child Abuse and Neglect	5 minutes
Recognizing Signs of Abuse	10 minutes
Responding to Suspicion of Abuse	20 minutes
Scenario Practice	20 minutes

Learning Targets

- I can articulate Two Rivers' policy and process for reporting suspicion of neglect or abuse.
- I can appropriately respond and support students when there is suspicion of neglect or abuse.
- I can apply the Two Rivers' policy and process for reporting suspicion of neglect or abuse, and practice responding appropriately.



Mandated Reporter Role

Mandatory Reporting Key Questions

What is a mandated reporter?

- A person who is legally required to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA).
- As employees of a school, we all are mandated reporters, regardless of our positions, titles, and job duties.

Mandatory Reporting Key Points

- Most calls to CFSA come from mandated reporters. **We are a critical part of the safety net for our community.**
- Failure to report can mean that abuse or neglect continues.
- Failure to report can also lead to a fine and/or imprisonment.
- **It is not our job to determine whether or not abuse or neglect actually took place.** That is the role of CFSA. Our role is to report if we **SUSPECT** that abuse or neglect may have taken place.
- A report to CFSA and MPD must be made within 24 hours of learning about an incident that causes you to suspect abuse has occurred.

Do's and Don't

- Employees of Two Rivers should only engage in electronic communication with students using the employee's **Two Rivers email address and the student's Two Rivers email address**. Electronic communication should only pertain to school-related matters.
- Employee's personal phone numbers should never be shared with students.
- We highly recommend you make your social media accounts private and you should not allow students to follow your accounts.
- Employees are prohibited from providing transportation to a student in their personal vehicle.

Do's and Don't

- Staff should only give gifts to large groups of students (i.e. an entire crew or team), and only if school administrators are made aware of and approve the gift
- When meeting one-on-one with a student, do so in a public place where you are in full view of others.
- If meeting in a room or office, leave the door open or move to an area that can be easily observed by others passing by.
- **A staff member should never be alone in a room with a student with the door locked.**

Do's and Don't

- **If you need to be in a room that is not observable from the outside (e.g. during counseling), you should:**
  - Share your meeting schedule with the Principal and your supervisor; only meet with students during scheduled times
  - Invite your supervisor to randomly drop by unannounced
  - Document and immediately report any unusual incidents, including disclosures of abuse or maltreatment, behavior problems and how they were handled, injuries, or any interactions that might be misinterpreted in writing to the Principal and supervisor.

Personal Care & Bathroom Routines

Do's	Don'ts
✅ Children independently enter the bathroom and stall. ✅ Children independently wipe their genital areas and independently dress and undress themselves. ✅ Staff give verbal and visual directions to help coach students through cleaning themselves and getting dressed and undressed. ✅ Staff assist students with toileting or personal care needs with another adult present. ✅ Staff provide written notification to parents when children require toileting assistance. ✅ Report concerns about a child's actions immediately to the principal and nurse. ✅ Report suspected child abuse and neglect to CFSA, as outlined in the Staff Handbook.	❌ Staff should never enter a stall with a student without another adult present. ❌ Staff will not wipe a child's genital area unless specifically outlined in a student's IEP or 504 plan. ❌ Staff will not undress or dress a student unless assistance is required and another staff member is present. ❌ Staff will never attend to a student's personal care toileting needs without notifying their partner teacher.

Defining Child Abuse and Neglect

Defining Child Abuse and Neglect

What is child abuse and neglect?

- Child abuse or neglect is the physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent maltreatment, or maltreatment of any child under age 18.
- This does include student to student instances of sexual assault or abuse, including inappropriate sexual touching.

Recognizing Signs of Abuse

Recognizing Signs of Abuse

View RAINN's website for more information by age-group.

Behavioral Signs

- Shrinking away from or seeming threatened by physical contact
- Regressive behaviors like thumb sucking
- Changing hygiene routines such as refusing to bathe or bathing excessively
- Age-inappropriate sexual behaviors
- Sleep disturbances, or nightmares
- Spending an unusual amount of time alone
- Showing or sharing sexually explicit or violent videos

Recognizing Signs of Abuse

View RAINN's website for more information by age-group.

Physical Signs

- Bruising or swelling near the genital area
    - Do not ask the child to show you. You should not complete any examinations. Staff member would not (and should not) see these signs of abuse directly.
- Blood on sheets or undergarments in younger grades
- Broken bones
- Unexplained injuries

Recognizing Signs of Abuse

View RAINN's website for more information by age-group.

Verbal Cues

- Using words or phrases that are "too adult" for their age
- Unexplained silence, or suddenly being less talkative
- Excessive talk about or knowledge of sexual topics
- Keeping secrets
- Discrepancies, blame, or inconsistent stories about physical signs of abuse

Recognizing Signs of Abuse

Behavior of the abuser you might observe

- Tries to be a child's friend rather than filling an adult role
- Does not seem to have age-appropriate relationships
- Talks with children about their (adult's) personal problems or relationships
- Makes up excuses to be alone with the child
- Expresses unusual interest in child's sexual development, such as commenting on sexual characteristics or sexualizing normal behaviors
- Gives a child gifts without occasion or reason
- Sharing obscene images or taking inappropriate photos or videos of a child

Responding to Signs of Abuse or Neglect

Responding to Suspicion of Abuse

Since you regularly interact with children, you may become suspicious that a child might be a victim of maltreatment by:

- Observation: You may observe physical or behavioral signs of the child or you might see suspicious behavior of a colleague.
- Disclosure: You may be the first person to whom a child reveals information disclosing their child abuse or neglect or you might directly witness the abuse.

Steps for Responding to Report or Suspicion of Abuse

1. Inform school administrator or your supervisor.
2. Together with the school administrator or your supervisor, you will call CFSA within 24 hours.
   a. To report abuse or neglect, call **(202) 671-7233/(202) 671-SAFE or cfsamandatedreporter.dc.gov**
   b. The parent of the child should **NOT** be called or informed of the report to CFSA
3. Ensure CFSA call is documented via the CFSA report form.

Responding to Suspicion of Abuse

- You must IMMEDIATELY inform a school administrator or your supervisor per school policy and together you will call CFSA
    - **If the school administrator does not call or dismisses your claim, you still have the legal obligation to call and report to CFSA**
- You should NOT inform the parents or guardians that you have made a report to CFSA because this may interfere with the investigation

Information Needed When Reporting

- Information you should have available when you call CFSA
  - Student first and last name
  - Student address
  - Parent/guardian first and last name
  - Parent/guardian phone number and address
  - Suspected abuser first and last name, and relationship to child
  - Suspected abuser phone number and address
  - Summary of the suspected abuse or neglect
- If you are missing some of this information, still make the call to CFSA.

Responding to Suspicion of Abuse

- As a mandated reporter, you must ALWAYS make a report to CFSA whenever you know about or suspect child abuse/neglect
  - **This includes current and former students and children in your community outside of Two Rivers**
  - **Even if you have a relationship with the suspected abuser, you must report (e.g. friend outside of TR, friend of a friend etc.)**

Supporting the Child

- Don't investigate/interrogate the child or talk to their parents
- Only ask questions so that you have the basic facts that would be needed to make a report because this:
  - Minimizes the number of interviews for a child
  - Minimizes the chance of a child retracting the story
  - Minimizes interference with the investigation (civil or criminal)
- NEVER put a child on the call to the Hotline and ask them to "repeat what you just told me."

Supporting the Child

- Consider the Perspective of the Child
  - Express your belief that the child is telling the truth
  - Use the child's vocabulary and be mindful of your body language
  - Reassure the child that it is not their fault
  - Prepare the child about what to expect - someone from CFSA may come to the school to ask the child questions.

Responding to Suspicion of Abuse

After you report:

- You may not hear or see signs of an investigation.
  - If CFSA needs additional information, they will reach out to you.
  - Depending on an agency's policies and your relationship to the child, you may be able to call back to follow up after a few days.
- If you are able to, continue to play the supportive role you always have in that child's life.
- Take care of yourself. Reporting sexual abuse isn't easy. It's important to practice self-care during this time.
  - To speak with someone who is trained to help, call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at **800.656.HOPE** (4673) or chat online at online.rainn.org

Scenario Practice

ES Scenario Practice

During recess, a 2nd grade boy pulls down his pants, exposing himself to the crew.

Turn and talk to a partner - how would you respond?

ES Scenario Practice

During a lesson, you notice two of your 5th grade students touching each other in their private areas.

Turn and talk to a partner - how would you respond?

ES Scenario Practice

One of your student tells you that her older brother hit her at home and she shows you a mark on her body.

Turn and talk to a partner - how would you respond?

ES Scenario Practice

A preschool student tells you that one of her crew mates touched her privates during circle time.

Turn and talk to a partner - how would you respond?

Key Takeaways

Trust your instinct:

- If something seems off, pay attention to that feeling and report it to a school administrator or your supervisor.
- If a child tells you that someone makes them uncomfortable, even if they can't tell you anything specific, listen.
- Remember your obligations to report to CFSA.

RAINN is a free support resource:

- Remember, you are not alone. If you suspect a child in your life may be experiencing sexual abuse, you can talk to someone who is trained to help. Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at **800.656.HOPE** (4673) or chat online at online.rainn.org.

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Exit Ticket

New Crew Members:

- Go to **cfsamandatedreporter.dc.gov**
- Click on **LOGIN** and then **Register**
- Complete the online registration and show it to a school administrator

Returning Crew Members:

- Go to **cfsamandatedreporter.dc.gov**
- Log into your account
- Show your account home page to a school administrator

Questions?