

POSITIONS AND POLICIES ON EDUCATION

Child Abuse and Neglect

FILE CODE

5141.4

Child Abuse and Neglect

The NJSBA believes that a child's physical and mental well-being is a prerequisite for academic achievement. Abuse and neglect are direct threats to this well-being. *[Authority: DA 5/96-CR (DYFS Study Committee), 5/97-SR, DA 5/02-SR, DA 5/07-SR, DA 5/12-SR, DA 5/17-SR, DA 5/22-SR]*

DCP&P Investigations and Reports

- A. **The NJSBA believes** that suspected child abuse or neglect should be reported immediately. School districts should cooperate with the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency in all such cases of suspected abuse or neglect, whether institutional or noninstitutional. *[Authority: DA 5/96-CR (DYFS Study Committee), 5/97-SR, DA 5/02-SR, DA 5/07-SR, DA 5/12-SR]*
- B. **The NJSBA believes** that DCP&P should keep local districts, executive county superintendents, county prosecutors and the State Board of Examiners informed throughout the DCP&P investigation of district employees until its conclusion. *[Authority: DA 5/96-CR (DYFS Study Committee), 5/97-SR]*
- C. **The NJSBA believes** that the State Board of Examiners and executive county superintendents should be entitled to the receipt of DCP&P reports. School officials should be permitted to use these reports during disciplinary, administrative or judicial proceedings to determine terms of employment or continued employment, and when conducting background checks or employment-related screening of an individual employed by, or seeking employment with, a school district. *[Authority: DA 5/96-CR (DYFS Study Committee), 5/97-SR]*
- D. **The NJSBA believes** that, to protect the physical and mental well-being of every student, school district employees with provisional certificates, who are the subject of a DCP&P investigation, should not be granted permanent certificates while a DCP&P investigation is pending or if DCP&P reaches a substantiated finding after an investigation. Similarly, if DCP&P reaches a substantiated finding after investigating a permanent certificate holder, the State Board of Examiners should have the authority to revoke or suspend the permanent certificate. *[Authority: DA 5/96-CR (DYFS Study Committee), 5/97-SR, DA 5/02-SR, DA 5/07-SR, DA 5/12-SR, DA 5/17-SR, DA 5/22-SR]*

Key Words: child abuse, neglect, DCP&P