

CHILD ABUSE

- If student has visible injuries, refer to the appropriate guideline to provide first aid.
- **CALL EMS/911** if any injuries require immediate medical care.

- All school staff are required to report suspected child abuse and neglect to the appropriate authorities.
- Refer to your own school's policy for additional guidance on reporting.
- School districts should have clear policies in place that support school district staff in this responsibility.

Abuse may be physical, sexual or emotional in nature. Some signs of abuse follow. This is NOT a complete list:

- Depression, hostility, low self-esteem, poor self-image.
- Evidence of repeated injuries or unusual injuries.
- Lack of explanation or unlikely explanation for an injury.
- Pattern bruises or marks (e.g., burns in the shape of a cigarette or iron, bruises or welts in the shape of a hand).
- Unusual knowledge of sex, inappropriate touching or engaging in sexual play with other children.
- Severe injury or illness without medical care.
- Poor hygiene, underfed appearance.

If a student reveals abuse to you:

- Remain calm.
- Take the student seriously.
- Reassure the student that he/she did the right thing by telling.
- Let the student know that you are required to report the abuse to county or city child protective services.
- Do not make promises that you cannot keep.
- Respect the sensitive nature of the student's situation.
- If you know, tell the student what steps to expect next.
- Follow required school reporting procedures.

Contact responsible school authority.
Contact appropriate county or city child protective services.

Document care provided and complete appropriate school reports.