



Student Abuse Investigations

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for student abuse investigations for the following types of abuse effective July 1, 2025: **physical, sexual or prostitution**.

Student Abuse Investigation Process

● Intake receives a report of student abuse

The intake staff must determine there is a school employee, student and concern that meets the physical, sexual or prostitution categories of abuse. The concern must occur on school grounds during school time, or on or at a school-related curricular or extracurricular activity.

If a credible report is accepted, the school  immediately places the employee on administrative leave until the investigation ends.

● Student abuse investigator has 30 business days to complete their investigation and coordinates with law enforcement as appropriate.

Outcome of the completed investigation is shared with the school district and the Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE).

● If the investigation report by HHS determines abuse has been committed, the employee must be terminated.

In order for a report to be accepted, the allegation must:



Involve a school employee, volunteer or other adult working as a vendor in or for the school



Involve a student



Meet the physical, sexual or prostitution categories of abuse



Take place on school grounds during school time, or on or at a school-related curricular or extracurricular activity

Report the student abuse types listed above by calling Iowa's abuse hotline.

1 (800) 362-2178