IOWA Health and Human Services

Student Abuse Flowchart

Did this happen on or after July 1, 2025?

- No → **Does not meet student abuse criteria.**
- Yes → Is the victim a student?

Is the victim a student?

- No → **Does not meet student abuse criteria.**
- Yes → Does this incident meet the criteria for physical abuse, sexual abuse or prostitution of a child?

Does this incident meet the criteria for physical abuse, sexual abuse or prostitution of a child?

- No → **Does not meet student abuse criteria.**
- Yes → Is the perpetrator:

Is the perpetrator:

- A person employed by a public school or a nonpublic school.
- A vendor, or an employee of a vendor, that provides goods or services to a public school or a nonpublic school.
- An agent, or an employee of an agent, of a public school or a nonpublic school.
- A volunteer under the direction and control of any of the following:
  - The board of directors or any administrator of a public school district.
  - The board or authorities in control of a nonpublic school.
  - The board of directors or administrator of an agency called upon by a school official to provide services to students in an educational capacity.

- No → **Does not meet student abuse criteria.**
- Yes → Did this take place on school grounds during school time or on or at a school-related curricular or extra-curricular activity?

Did this take place on school grounds during school time or on or at a school-related curricular or extra-curricular activity?

- No → **Does not meet student abuse criteria.**
- Yes → **Report the incident to Iowa's abuse hotline.**

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Student Abuse Flowchart

Incident is reported

Rejected if not investigable and complete.

Accepted

Notice of Intake Decision is sent to the identified reporter.

If accepted

Notice of Student Abuse Investigation is sent to:

- Public school - board of directors (Superintendent and/or secretary).
- Authorities in charge of the Non-Public school (varies per school).
- BOEE
- Parent
  - Send Parental Notice of Student Abuse Investigation to the identified parents/guardians of the student within 5 business days - similar to 232.71B(2).

Employee is immediately put on leave by school officials.

Investigation takes place (30 business days to complete unless timeline deferred due to law enforcement investigation).

Notifications during investigation:

- Notify the school employee allegedly involved in the incident - similar to 232.71B(4) (during interview with person alleged responsible).

Investigation and written investigation report are completed.

Send Notice of Determination of Student Abuse Investigation (Outcome Notice) to:

- School Employee responsible for alleged student abuse.
- Parent/Guardian of the named student victim.
- Public school - board of directors (aka Superintendent and/or secretary).
- Authorities in charge of the Non-Public school (varies per school).
- Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE)

Send written investigation report to:

- Public school - board of directors (Superintendent and/or secretary).
- Authorities in charge of the Non-Public school (varies per school).
- BOEE
- Upon request, report may be provided to:
  - The student named in the report of student abuse as the victim or the student's attorney or guardian ad litem.
  - The parent or guardian of the student named or their attorney.
  - The school employee named as having abused the student (perpetrator) or their attorney.
  - Law enforcement involved in the student abuse investigation.
  - The county attorney.
  - The ALJ or court involved in a contested case proceeding and find the information necessary for the resolution in a case involving a substantiated allegation of abuse. (Appeal)

HHS determines abuse has not been committed.

School officials review report to decide on any necessary employment action.

HHS determines abuse has been committed.

Employee must be terminated.