

Protect Our Students

CSA & Trafficking NC Educator Training

General Guidance for Responding & Reporting

In North Carolina, all adults are required by law to report suspected child sexual abuse (CSA). You do not need evidence to file a report. A reasonable suspicion is sufficient. Follow your school policies for responding and reporting.

When should I make a report?

- Abuse is witnessed
- Abuse is disclosed
- A concerning combination of warning signs is observed

What should I do when suspected CSA needs to be reported?

- Report to local law enforcement immediately. (Call 911 if it's an emergency.)
- Report to designated person at school immediately.
- If a parent or caretaker is involved or trafficking is suspected, report to social services.

How should I respond to a CSA disclosure?

- Disclosures should always be taken seriously. (In most cases children don't fabricate allegations.)
- Listen carefully and consider taking notes if the child is comfortable with this.
- Ask only 5 questions: What happened? When? Where? Who did it? How do you know this person?
- Reassure the student of your support, but avoid making promises you can't keep.
- Explain the next step to the child and consider providing older students with a hotline number.
- After a child discloses abuse, do NOT try to investigate and do NOT contact a parent of the child.

What should I do if I see warning signs of CSA?

- Inform the designated staff person at your school.
- Trust your gut. Report when you or other staff see multiple signs that lead you to suspect abuse.

What should I do if I'm still unsure about reporting?

Consider contacting [childhelp.org](https://www.childhelp.org) or [saysomething.net](https://www.saysomething.net) confidentially.

How do I report internet related CSA?

- Report suspected internet related CSA in the same manner as other forms of CSA.
- If you encounter suspected child pornography or exploitation online, report it at [cybertipline.org](https://www.cybertipline.org).