



**To: House Committee on Human Services Committee, Rep. Ann Pugh, Chair**  
**From: Erin Maguire, Past President and Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee for VCSEA**  
**Date: February 17, 2016**  
**Re: H. 622**

Last session, VCSEA supported increased accountability for schools with regard to mandated reporting. Good work was done to improve clarity on the critical nature of the role mandated reporters play in protecting Vermont's youth. As can sometimes take place with new legislation, the attempt to create increase accountability has come with some unanticipated consequences that require a slight modification.

H.622 addresses the unnecessary redundancy of re-reporting information that has already been reported by prior mandated reporters. VCSEA supports this direction for mandated reporters in schools. Schools make up a large number of reports to DCF. During the process of addressing a student's needs in a school, several people may come into contact with the information triggering an additional and redundant report. Below are a few examples:

1. A report is made by a teacher or group of teachers based on information gleaned from their role as educators. In reporting the incident to the Principal, the Principal is then required to make their own call even if they have all the information that was reported and do not have anything new to add.
2. A psychologist completing an evaluation on a child reviews a record and reads a written DCF report that was filed in reference to the child. The psychologist must now make a subsequent call to DCF to report the information again, even though all the information the individual now knows is the information that was already filed with DCF.
3. During a transition process from grade to grade or school to school, information is shared with regard to prior abuse or neglect in order to carefully monitor for any further concerns. In this case, the new teacher must make an additional report on the same set of information to DCF.
4. If a school district has a policy that requires the Superintendent or other central office administrator is informed of DCF reports that take place within the school system, it triggers another call from that administrator who now has the information on the child as a matter of administrative oversight.
5. In the event that a DCF report is involved in a school based personnel matter, the Human Resources Director of an educational organization may be required to re-report information shared during an investigation even though the information has already been fully reported by an individual's supervisor.

There are several other examples where redundant reports are now required by law. It is critical that we address the redundancy of the reporting requirements for schools and educational organizations. Thank you for addressing this issue for schools through H.622.

This position is also supported by VSA, VSBA, VPA, VASBO, and VSBIT based on our collaborative conversations on the issue. For further questions please contact Erin Maguire at [emaguire@ccsuvt.org](mailto:emaguire@ccsuvt.org).