



SAFETY BULLETIN

Attention: Risk Management, Human Resources, School Principals,
District Leadership

August 2026

SB 848 - Volunteers as Mandated Reporters

Senate Bill 848 expands California's mandated reporter requirements to include school board members and certain school volunteers, who must now complete mandated reporter training.



Which Volunteers Are Covered?

SB 848 defines a covered volunteer as "a person who is over 18 years of age and who interacts with pupils outside of the immediate supervision and control of the pupil's parent or guardian or a school employee."

Although districts may distinguish between volunteer assignments that do and do not meet this definition, SIA recommends providing mandated reporter training to all volunteers. Circumstances can change, and a volunteer who is ordinarily supervised may unexpectedly be asked to accompany or assist a student outside the immediate supervision of a parent, guardian, or school employee.

Training Requirements

Mandated reporter training must be completed within the first six weeks of each school year or, for a volunteer who begins later, within the first six weeks of commencing volunteer service. For SIA members, training for employees, school board members, and volunteers is available through PublicSchoolWORKS (PSW), the learning management system used by district staff for online training courses. Districts should maintain documentation of training completion.

Key Learning and Safety Practices

- Recognize signs of child abuse or neglect
- Understand the individual duty to report and how to make a report. (Continued on page 2)

Key Learning and Safety Practices (Continued from page 1)

- Report suspected abuse or neglect immediately; do not investigate.
- Follow the district's professional boundaries policy.
- Keep interactions with students observable and interruptible.
- Use only district-approved communication methods.
- Follow campus sign-in, identification, and volunteer procedures.
- Know how to raise concerns about inappropriate conduct or other student safety issues.



Building Awareness Across the School Community

One important purpose of SB 848 is to expand awareness and strengthen the network of adults who help safeguard children. When employees, board members, volunteers, and other members of the school community know how to recognize warning signs and report suspected abuse, their collective efforts strengthen student safety.

School sites can support this effort by consistently following district volunteer procedures and ensuring that campus staff know where to direct volunteers for training, guidance, and reporting information. Clear expectations and shared responsibility help foster a culture of vigilance, trust, accountability, and student well-being throughout the school community.