

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

Steve Bullock
GOVERNOR



Mike Cooney
LT. GOVERNOR

August 7, 2020

Dear Educators:

As public servants, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Montana's children is one of our greatest obligations. As Governor of our great state and father of three, I work hard every day to ensure our children are afforded the opportunity to live life to the fullest — safe from abuse and neglect.

As educators, you play a vital role in our efforts to protect Montana's children, now more than ever, as these especially stressful times for families can have negative effects on already vulnerable children. This booklet, the *Montana School Guidelines for the Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect*, will assist you in the best practices to preserve the wellbeing of our young Montanans. In it, you will find ways to recognize when children are being abused or neglected, reasons why you should get involved, and pertinent Montana laws as they relate to child abuse and neglect.

I encourage all educators and school staff to read this booklet from cover to cover. The information contained in the following pages may very well change a child's life. Thank you for stepping up during these difficult times to keep Montana's children safe, healthy, and ready to learn

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Steve Bullock, written in a cursive style.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor