

# School abuse reporting: At Moraga district, lessons learned

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After an investigative report by the Bay Area News Group on the Moraga School District that revealed failures in mandated reporting stemming from a 1990s child sex abuse scandal, the district created the most stringent mandated reporting training of all those surveyed by the news group.

All 250 employees receive a two-hour annual training at the start of the school year with the Contra Costa Child Abuse Prevention Council, and principals spend an additional half-hour midyear reviewing the training with their staffs. Employees also receive "scenario training" by legal counsel. Some substitute teachers and other employees completed online courses through the California Department of Social Services, which provides free training.

Training was also provided to a recently formed district safety committee, as well as to parents at two workshops.

Moraga also worked with neighboring school districts in Lafayette and Orinda to create a child safety awareness coordinator position.

"The reaction has been exceptionally positive," said Superintendent Bruce Burns. "Clarity of expectations through education has been appreciated, as are the ongoing plans and interest to continuously review and improve upon safety measures."

**Child Abuse Prevention Council *of* Contra Costa County**

A recent survey by the district showed 94 percent of parents agree or strongly agree that schools are safe, Burns said.