**If I am uncertain about a student’s safety due to lack of engagement in remote learning, how do I decide when making a report to Child Protective Services might be necessary?**

By law, the Colorado Children's Code mandates educator responsibilities in protecting students regarding child abuse. Specifically, all district employees are required to report known or suspected incidents of child abuse to the County Department of Human Services (Child Protective Services) or local law enforcement officials.

You are required to report behavior, physical appearance, and comments made by a child or a parent that indicates the child’s physical and/or emotional health and welfare could be threatened. While there are numerous definitions and factors that indicate abuse or neglect, the bottom line for employees is to be perceptive and responsive to any suspected child abuse and/or neglect.

**There are many reasons why** students might not be engaging in the remote learning environment. We must lean in to what we already know about the student when trying to identify safety concerns.

***These reflective questions may help you think through ‘the why’ behind  your concerns as well as help you to plan for next steps.***

**1.** Reflect on what you already know about the student prior to remote learning. Were you concerned about the student before? Was the student engaged/disengaged in school?

**2.** If the student is not engaging in remote learning, have you already connected with the student on non-school related topics? Even a brief, “hello” or “How you doing” or “What have you been up to?” This may help you better determine if you are dealing with a safety issue or disengagement issue.

**3.** Do you know WHY the student is not engaging? Is it an access issue? Lack of family support issue? Depression issue,  etc.? If you are unsure, have you done all you can to connect with the student, parent/guardian, caregiver, **emergency contact**,  etc. to learn more?

**4.** Have you consulted with your colleagues and/or administration? **Please remember, you are not alone and we are in this together**. It is our ethical obligation to consult our professional colleagues as we grapple with difficult situations and decisions. You can always connect with the members of the Student Success Division as well (*see below for contact information*). We may not have all of the answers but we are always happy to be thought partners WITH you!

**5**.  Use your professional judgement and trust your intuition. If you are still feeling uncertain and are worried about the safety of your student, make a report to Child Protective Services.