End Sexual abuse of Children with
ESCAPE
Awareness Prevention Education

6 Steps for
Preventing Adult Sexual Misconduct
& Child Sexual Abuse

SIG Schools Insurance Group

Summary & Discussion Guide:
Module 5 – Off-Site Boundaries

This focus is on boundaries that protect students from sexual abuse during off-site activities, which pose additional risk simply because it's an environment districts/schools don't control.

Recommended Boundaries and Practices

- Institute a formal **PRE**-approval process for school sponsored off-site field trips. (Source 1)
  - List of acceptable off-site "activities" and "locations where these activities can take place.
  - Which staff members are eligible to take students off-site?
  - What is the expected frequency and duration of "activities"?
  - Identify additional resources required for effective supervision and who's authorized to approve off-site activity requests.
  - A site inspection is recommended.

- Establish a formal practice of approving individual off-site activity requests. (Source 1)
  - Written request submitted at least three weeks prior to event.
  - Request meets pre-approved criteria, require two previously authorized personnel to provide written approval
  - Request does not meet criteria; request should go to the board for approval prior to authorization.
  - Detailed informed consent forms should be sent to parents and returned with written approval prior to activity.

- Buses and district vehicles should be used whenever possible for off-site transportation within driving distance and be supervised by multiple fully screened adults. (Source 1, 2)

- Adequate supervision for all students, regardless of age, should be provided for all off-site activities, especially overnight travel. (Source 1)

- Staff members and chaperones should not enter a student's hotel room without the presence of a second adult and vice versa. (Source 1, 3, 4)

- Staff members and parent chaperones should not consume alcohol, street drugs, or unnecessary prescription drugs at ANY time during the trip. (Source 1)

Reflection Question:

1. What are your current policies and practices regarding off-site activities and overnight travel and how can they be strengthened based on what you've learned today?

Sources

1. Diane Cranley, 8 *Ways to Create their Fate: Protecting the Sexual Innocence of Children in Youth-Serving Organizations* (Mustang: Tate Publishing & Enterprises, LLC), 187-197.

2. Michele Elliott, Kevin Browne, and Jennifer Kilcoyne, "Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: What Offenders Tell Us," Child Abuse & Neglect 19, no. 5 (1995): 585, doi:10.1016/0145-2134(95)00017-3.

3. Megan Chuchmach, Avni Patel, and Vic Walker, "USA Swimming Coach Pleads No Contest to Having Sex with Underage Swimmer," ABC News, April 23, 2010, accessed July 15, 2014, http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/usa- swimming-coach-pleads-contest-sex-underage-swimmer/ story?id=10460081.

4. Sandy K. Wurtele, "Preventing the Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Youth-serving Organizations," Children and Youth Services Review (2012): 2447, doi:10.1016/ childyouth.2012.09.009.

Reading Materials

- **Garfield High School choir teacher Carol Burton has lost her job for failing to uphold district policies on a March field trip to New Orleans** during which two teenage girls allegedly were groped by a male classmate. (http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/education/garfield-choir-teacher-fired-for-field-trip-lapses/)
- **Former Grain Valley teacher admits molesting 11 boys in his classroom and on field trips (**http://www.wbtv.com/story/21630894/kc-area-teacher-admits-molesting-students)
- **Ex-Teacher Gets Probation in Field-Trip Sex Case** (http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/1197397/)
- Headline: Court rules former Paramus Catholic overseas chaperones cannot be charged with sexual assault http://archive.northjersey.com/news/court-rules-former-paramus-catholic-employees-cannot-be-charged-with-sexual-assault-1.1291210?page=all