

SUGGESTIONS FOR SAFE ADULT INTERACTIONS WITH STUDENTS/YOUTH

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SAFE INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS/YOUTH

Interactions with Students/Youth

- All interactions with students/youth should be professional and focused on teaching and learning.

Do not:

- Initiate social activities with students/youth
- Have a prolonged verbal exchange with students/youth if you have an impromptu encounter at a public place
- Provide childcare for students/youth
- Ask a student/youth to baby-sit for your family

Transportation of Students/Youth

- Get administrator approval
- Follow additional school requirements for transporting students/youth including field trip guidelines and licensing and vehicle requirements

Do not:

- Take a student/youth or students/youths on private outings
- Transport a student/youth alone
- Transport a student/youth in your automobile without parental permission.

Communication (this includes online, texting, or social networks)

- Only say or write things to a student/youth that you would be comfortable sharing with the student's/youths parents or your administrator or supervisor.

Do not:

- Make jokes that belittle or diminish another person
- Make sexist comments
- Make sexual comments and/ or innuendo
- Give students/youth compliments that focus on physical attributes
- Initiate conversations or correspondence of a private and personal nature with students/youth

Working Alone with Students/Youth

- Keep the door open and lights on
- Do not post anything on class windows

Gifts

- In general, giving gifts to students/youth is not encouraged. If gifts are provided they should be:
 - Of nominal value
 - Identical for all students/youth in the group

Physical Contact with Students/Youth

- All physical contact with students/youth must be professional and appropriate.
- Be especially sensitive to students/youth that react negatively in even the slightest degree to being touched.
- **Preschool-Third Grade and Special-Needs Classrooms:**
 - The district realizes that teachers/adults in these age groups will have more physical contact with their students/youth to facilitate the educational process and/or activities.
- **Fourth Grade and Above:**
 - If you have physical contact with students/youth beyond third grade, limit its use to encouraging and acknowledging a student's/youth's efforts and accomplishments. Physical contact should be limited to "Safe Touch" areas:
 - Pat on the upper back or shoulder
 - Handshake
 - High- five

Do not:

- Touch a student/youth in anger