

West Virginia Department of Education

Sexual Abuse Prevention School Personnel Training

Module 3 – Boundary Violation Handout

Below is a list of 20 boundary-violating behaviors that faculty, school employees, youth service organizations, students, and parents should be aware of and avoid.

1. Making comments about a student's body or physical attributes to them or to other students or staff.
2. Making sexual comments or jokes, suggestive gestures, or engaging in flirtatious behavior with a student.
3. Doing things of a personal nature that students can do for themselves, e.g. combing their hair, providing bathroom assistance.
4. Engaging in roughhousing or provocative physical games with students or in inappropriate touching, e.g. stroking hair, back rubs, etc.
5. Engaging in physical affection that could be perceived as inappropriate or confusing by the student or others witnessing the behavior.
6. Showering with students after athletic practices or events or not exhibiting the same modesty that any adult should maintain with a child or youth under their care.
7. Asking young students to sit on his or her lap or holds hands with older students.
8. Using pet names or words like "honey," "sweetheart," "dear," to refer to a student or allowing students to call them by their first name.
9. Giving gifts to selected students and violating school policies on giving or receiving gifts.
10. Offering a student a ride in their car or allowing a student to borrow their car.
11. Sharing a room with students when traveling for any school event or sports function.
12. Inviting students to off-school events or trips where other adults and/or students will not be present.
13. Closing or locking doors when meeting with a student before or after class or covering classroom windows so that interactions with students cannot be observed and/or interrupted.
14. Using their cell phone or camera in locker rooms or restrooms to photograph students.
15. Independently trying to provide psychological counseling to a student about a sensitive personal issue when a referral to the school counselor would be the appropriate course of action.
16. Sharing their personal phone number or personal email address with a student instead of using school-based phone and email systems.
17. Sending private text messages to students or responding to text messages from students after school hours or during nighttime hours.
18. Asking students to connect with them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, or other social media sites rather than reserving their social media for family and friends.
19. Sharing with students highly personal things or secrets about themselves, or sharing stories about their adult relationships, marriage, or sex life.
20. Engaging in any sexual or romantic relationship with a student or other child or youth, in their care, irrespective of the age of that child, youth, or student.

