

# Maintaining positive boundaries

## 10-minute building meeting trainer agenda

### Materials needed:

- Positive boundaries one-pager
- Sign-in sheet

### Welcome (1 minute)

Welcome your members to the meeting and have them sign in via the sign-in sheet. Provide quick snacks if possible.

### Introduction (1 minute)

Talk about why it is important to maintain positive boundaries.

- Sadly, handfuls of educators are accused on an annual basis of inappropriate touch. Even when the charges are proven false, the impact can be devastating.
- In addition to allegations of inappropriate touch, many educators deal with allegations of crossing professional emotional boundaries when working and communicating with students.

### Content (4 minutes)

Highlight the most important tips to keep in mind when thinking about maintaining positive boundaries.

- Remember that you are not your students' friend.
- Avoid physical horseplay with students.
- Do not meet with students in a closed setting; leave your door open.
- Avoid touching any student unless absolutely necessary; what may seem benign to you may be interpreted otherwise by a student.
- Avoid personal notes with students unless they deal solely with educational matters.
- Use caution when meeting or communicating with students in non-school settings; have district and parent approval prior to such communications or meetings.

**Note: Allow time for questions. If there are too many questions to address in the time provided, move to the next item on the agenda and offer to connect after the meeting.**



## Connect content with the local (2 minutes)

Share that (your local name) is sharing this information because you want all members to build healthy, appropriate relationships with students. Additionally, this is an opportunity to highlight the work of the union in three distinct ways:

- **Professional development:** Education Minnesota has a 60-minute training that delves into the tips highlighted above. Share all of the opportunities (local, IO, Summer Seminar, MEA, etc.) for members to access professional development through their union.
- **Representation:** Should a member be faced with an allegation of inappropriately connecting with students, their union will provide representation and guide the member through the appropriate procedures.
- **Advocacy:** (Your local name) and Education Minnesota recognize the extensive needs, including emotional support, of some of our students. We advocate for the funding needed to provide students with the resources they need, be that a fully-trained school counselor, psychologist, etc.

## Wrap up (2 minutes)

Leave them with the reminder that they need to consistently maintain positive physical and emotional boundaries. Recognize the need for educators to build relationships with students but reinforce that it needs to be done in a professional manner. Encourage members to come to the union with any questions or concerns about their professional practice of engaging with students.

**Note: After the meeting, the meeting facilitator should send a copy of the list of participants to the local field office.**