



# Maintaining Appropriate ADULT/STUDENT BOUNDARIES

Lower Dauphin School District staff and volunteers are expected to know and understand the difference between appropriate and inappropriate interactions with students. All adults must engage in appropriate interactions with students at all times and avoid any interactions that could appear inappropriate. Staff who have frequent one-to-one contact with students or who work in co-curricular or extra-curricular activities can be more at risk for inappropriate interactions with students or allegations of inappropriate interactions.

INAPPROPRIATE interactions cross boundaries by creating relationships that become equal rather than adult-to-child.

## EXAMPLES OF INAPPROPRIATE INTERACTIONS

### PHYSICAL CONTACT

#### INAPPROPRIATE INTERACTION

- Invading personal space; being too close in physical proximity
- Giving shoulder massage, lingering touches, squeezes, requesting affection or touching
- Taking a student out of class without a legitimate educational reason, which is defined to include matters or communications related to teaching, counseling, athletics, extracurricular activities, treatment of a student's injuries or other medical needs, school administration, or other purposes within the scope of the adult's job duties.
- Being alone with a student behind closed doors without a legitimate educational reason

### PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

#### INAPPROPRIATE INTERACTION

- Exchanging notes, emails or other communications of a personal nature with a student
- Telling a student personal secrets or sharing personal secrets with a student
- Giving personal gifts or letters to an individual student or small/select group of students without knowledge of the building principal
- Addressing students or permitting students to address adults with personalized terms of endearment, pet names, or otherwise in an overly familiar manner
- Disclosing personal, sexual, family, employment concerns or other private matters to one or more students.
- Encouraging students to confide their personal or family problems and/or relationships. If a student confides their personal, family or relationship problems with an adult, the adult should respond in an appropriate and professional manner to the student, and refer the student to the appropriate school resources in a timely manner

### SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

#### INAPPROPRIATE INTERACTION

- Initiating or extending contact with a student beyond the school day or outside of class times without a legitimate educational reason
- Sending or accompanying a student on personal errands.
- Inviting a student to the adult's home
- Going to a student's home without a legitimate educational reason
- Taking a student on outings without prior notification to and approval from both the parent/guardian and the building principal
- Giving a student a ride alone in a vehicle in a nonemergency situation without prior notification to and approval from both the parent/guardian and the building principal.
- Singling out a particular student or students for personal attention or friendship beyond the ordinary professional adult-student relationship
- Furnishing alcohol or drugs to a student or being present where any student is consuming these substances