

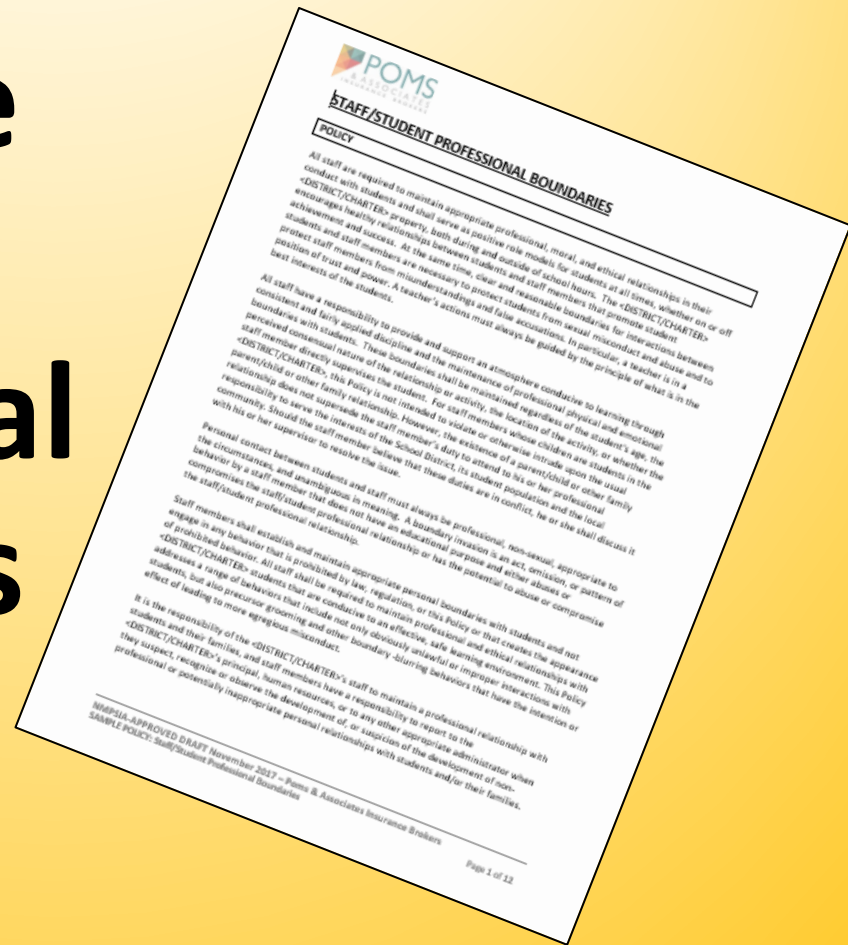
Protecting Students from Sexual Predators with a Professional Boundaries Policy

New Mexico School Boards Association
2017 Annual Convention

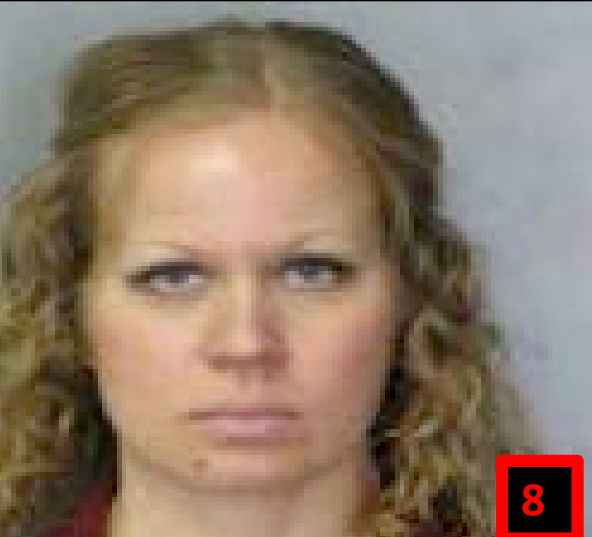
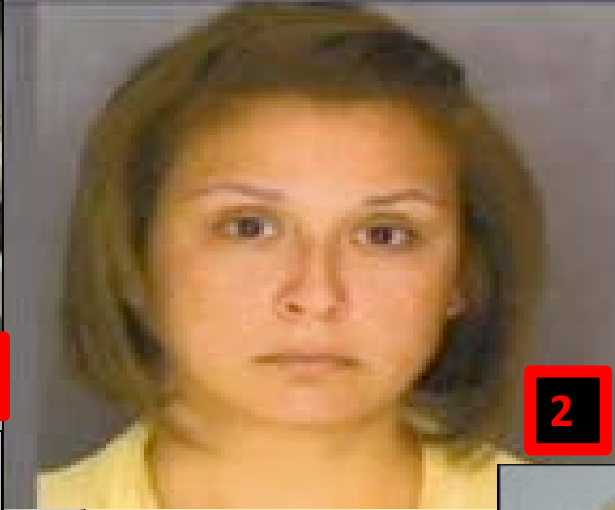
Agenda for the Session

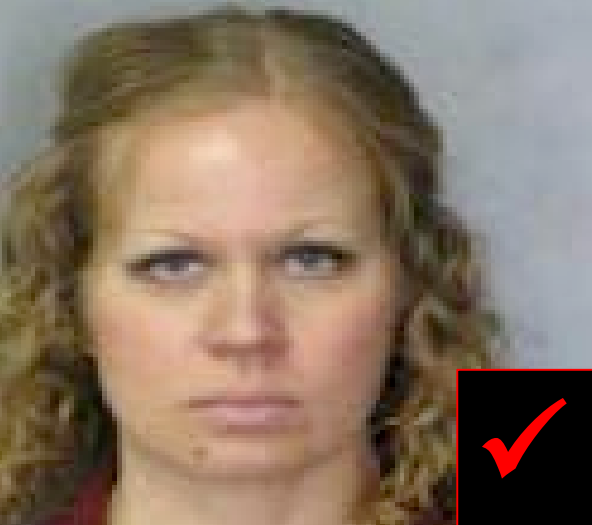
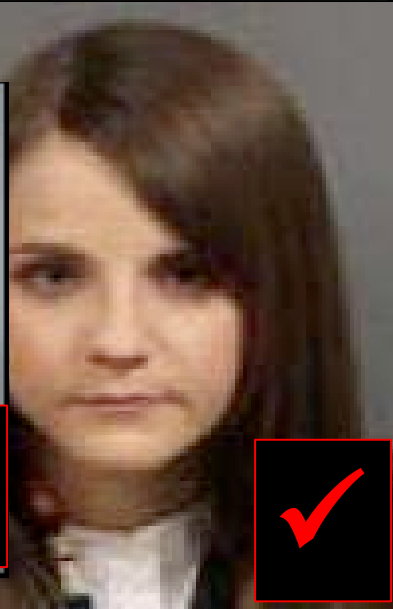
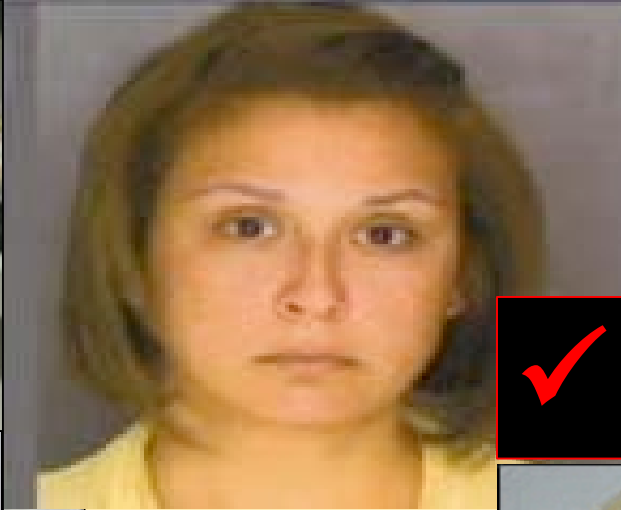
- Why do we need a Professional Boundaries Policy?
 - Sexual Violence Against Children
 - What Works in Prevention
- Approved by the NMPSIA Board in November
- The Approved Professional Boundaries Policy
- NM CARES and a Call to Action
- Questions, Resources and Contact Information

Why do we need a Professional Boundaries Policy?



**Can you identify the
sexual predators?**





**Therein lies the
problem.**

Sexual Predators

- Look and act involved and engaging.
- Move from state to state and district to district to avoid consequences.
- Are good at what they do and spend lots of time grooming their victims.

Sexual Predators

- Are predominantly male, married and religious.
- Number over 1,000,000 *convicted* in the US.

How large is the problem of sexual violence against children in the US?



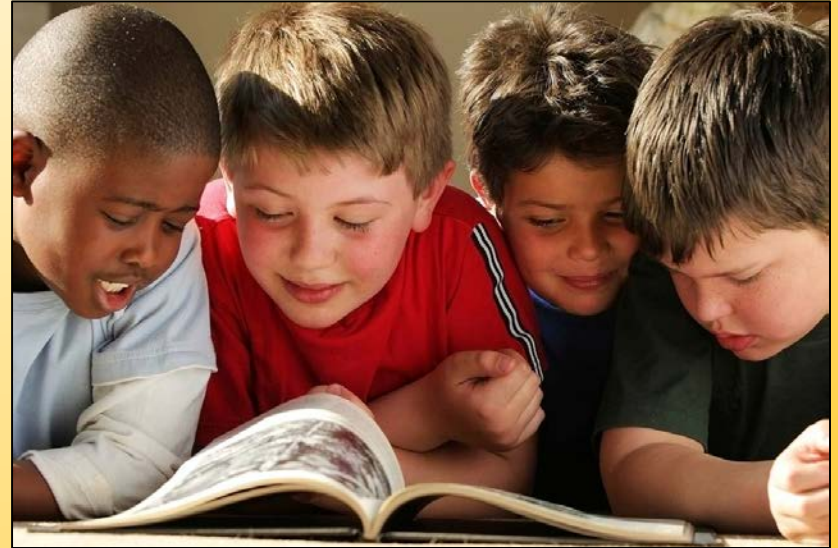
1 in 5 Girls

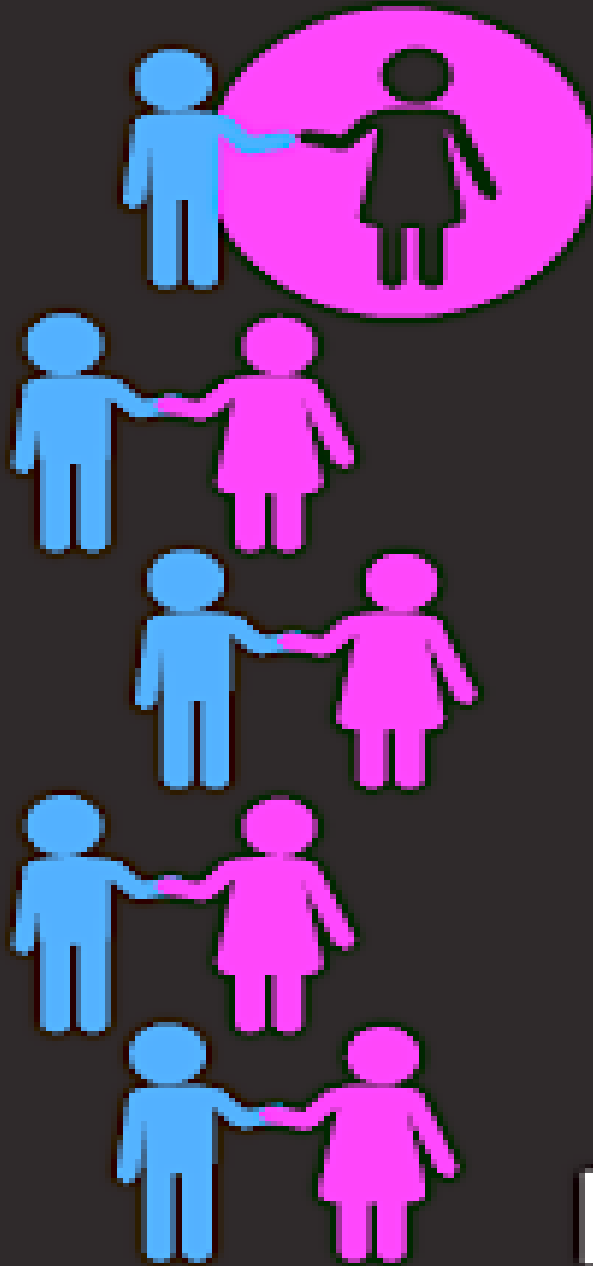


1 in 8 Boys

**Will be sexually assaulted before age 18 -
by someone they know and trust.**

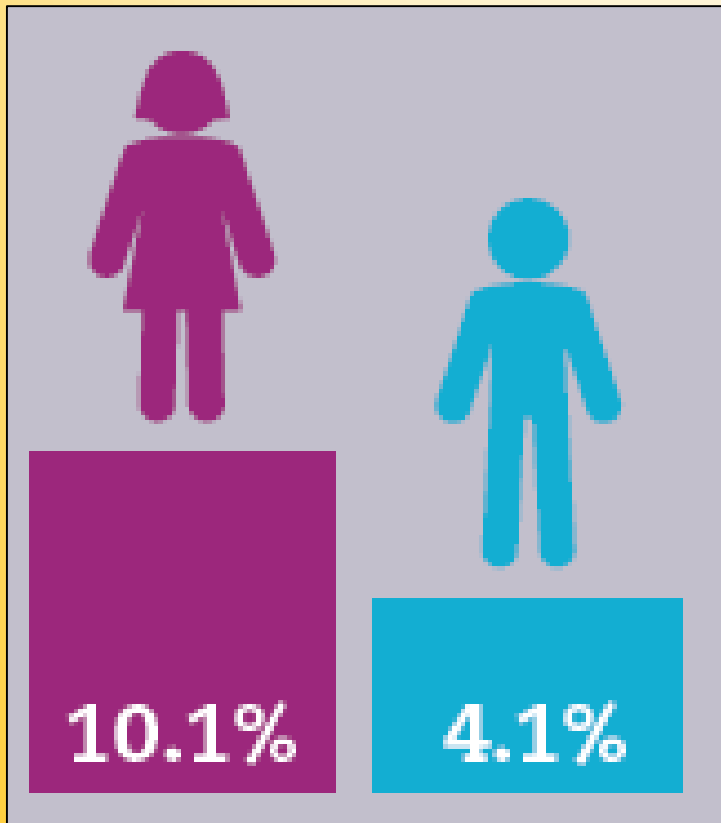
It is believed that the stat for boys is lower than 1 in 8, but fewer boys report being victimized because their offender is usually male.





ONE ^{out of}
TEN
k-12 students
is a victim of
educator
sexual
misconduct

And in New Mexico



10.1% of high school girls and 4.1% of high school boys in New Mexico reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.

Source: 2015 NM Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey

In New Mexico

- Approximately 3,200 Registered Sex Offenders in NM (10/17) another 250 incarcerated. 46 not compliant with registration.
- 939 Registered Sex Offenders in ABQ
- 202 Registered Sex Offenders in Las Cruces
- 99 Registered Sex Offenders in Santa Fe

How do sexual predators get into schools?

- Background checks not performed.
- Districts and charters are sometimes leery of disclosing information about a sexual predator in the absence of a conviction.
- They change districts or states before an investigation is complete.

Child Predators are masters at building relationships.

Any child can be groomed by any reasonably nice adult with interpersonal skills.

Child Molesters: A Behavioral Analysis for Professionals Investigating the Sexual Exploitation of Children

Grooming Behaviors

Before children are sexually abused, they are often groomed by abusers. Do you know the signs?

Special attention or gifts

Isolating the
child from others

Filling needs and roles
within the family



Treating the child
as if he or she is
older

Gradually crossing
physical boundaries,
even in public

So how do we prevent this from happening to our students?



WHAT WORKS IN PREVENTION



(Basile, K. C., DeGue, S., Jones, K., Freire, K., Dills, J., Smith, S. G., & Raiford, J. L. (2016). STOP SV: A technical package to prevent sexual violence. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.)



New Mexico
Public Schools
Insurance Authority



**A Professional Boundaries
Policy addresses two of
the five areas known to be
successful at preventing
sexual violence.**

WHAT WORKS IN PREVENTION



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In addition ...

We need to work together to implement a multifaceted approach to eliminating sexual predators in schools.





NMPSIA Board

Professional Boundaries Policy Development

- Researched Professional Boundaries Policies from other states.
- Had the first draft reviewed by legal counsel.
- Made changes based on the input and the working draft was reviewed again by a variety of legal counsel.
- Professional Boundaries Policy brought to the NMSPIA Board.

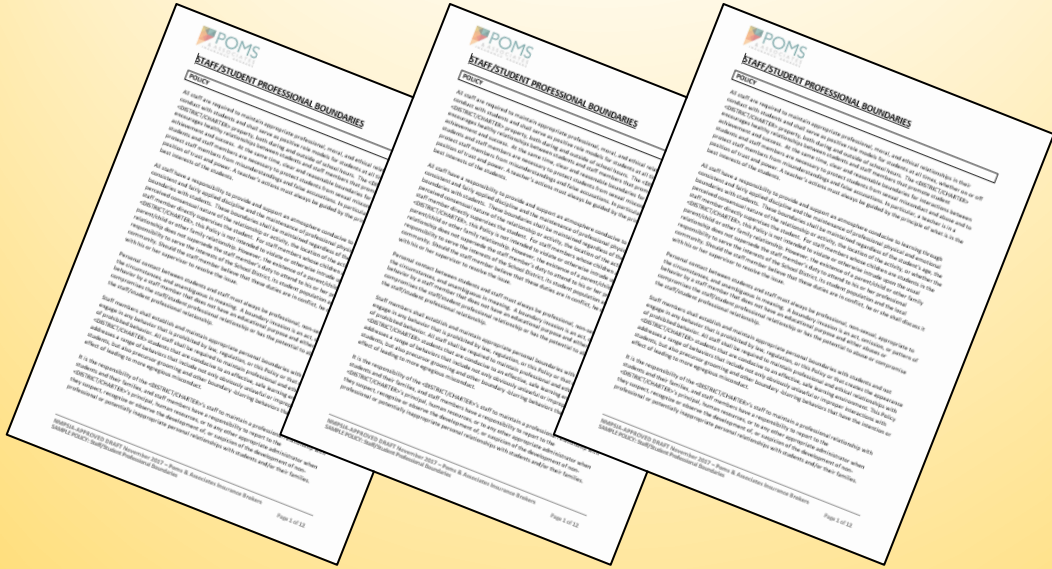
On October 5, 2017 the NMPSIA Board ...

- Voted unanimously to approve the Discussion Draft of the Professional Boundaries Policy in principle.
- Directed Poms and Associates to obtain stakeholder input.
- Placed the Professional Boundaries Policy on their November 2, 2017 Agenda and approved it unanimously.

The NMPSIA Board

- Is providing leadership for this work.
- Will determine if a Professional Boundaries Policy will be mandated for member districts and charters.

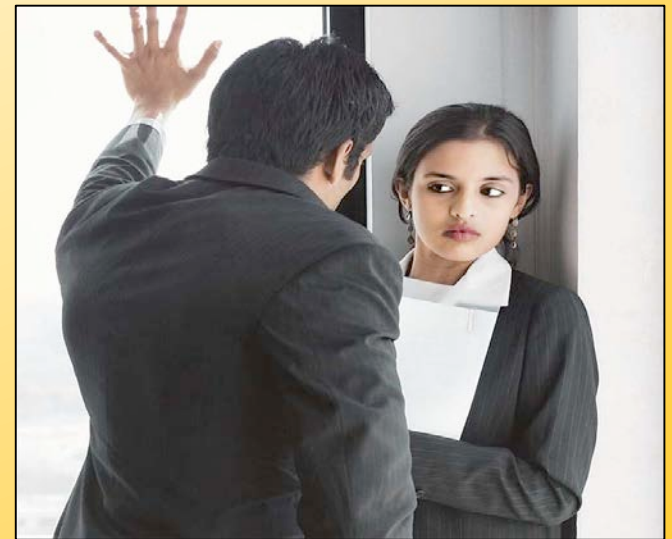




The Approved Professional Boundaries Policy

The Professional Boundaries Policy Does 4 Things

- Clearly identifies the District's expectations for staff/student relationships.
- Identifies acceptable and unacceptable staff behavior.





- Integrates into existing district policies – harassment, human resources/employment, Title IX.
- Establishes reporting pathways for staff, students and parents.

Professional Boundaries Policy

- Policy
- Work
Rules/Regulations
- Reporting Form

NM CARES and a Call to Action

This is a serious issue in our state and needs a serious response. The response is NM CARES.

NM CARES

Clear

Appropriate

Respectful

Environment in
Schools

NM CARES

1. Work with the NM Attorney General to strengthen statutes and rules protecting students and administrators giving truthful references.
2. Join a National Registry.
3. Design and implement training for district/charter personnel.
4. Pilot the Stop!t program in selected districts.
5. Design and implement training for students.

Call to Action

- What do you like about the policy?
- What concerns you about the policy?
- What can we do to support you in passing this policy in your district?

Questions

Resources

- <https://www.nsopw.gov/en> (includes Tribal jurisdictions)
- <http://nasdtec.site-ym.com/> The Clearinghouse is a searchable database that provides information regarding individuals who have had their professional educator certificates/licenses annulled, denied, suspended, revoked, or otherwise invalidated.

Contact Information

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Thank you for your time and service.

