

## SEX ABUSE PREVENTION: A Look at Your Facilities and Culture

Conducting a school walkthrough is a proactive step in safeguarding students and staff. This guide is designed to help you identify and address potential risks related to supervision, visibility, access and school culture. By focusing on clear lines of sight, secure spaces and professional boundaries, you can create an environment that prioritizes safety and prevents abuse. Use this reference to support your efforts in maintaining a secure, transparent and welcoming school community.



### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: IDENTIFYING RISK ZONES

- **Clear Lines of Sight:** It's crucial to ensure that all classrooms, offices and meeting rooms have unobstructed views. This means that windows into the room should remain uncovered, and artwork or decorations should not block visibility (work with local law enforcement to determine if windows should be covered during a lockdown).
- **Secure Empty Rooms:** All rooms and facilities must be closed and locked at all times when staff are not present to supervise. This would include classrooms, gymnasiums, staff rooms and storage rooms, etc.
- **Blind Corridors or Hidden Spaces:** Areas such as alcoves, stairwells, catwalks in auditoriums and other secluded spaces should be checked regularly. These spaces are high risk zones if not monitored properly. Ensuring these areas are visible and well-lit can help to mitigate unwanted activities. Consider installing video surveillance or convex mirrors to make these areas easier to supervise.
- **Lighting:** Walkways, parking lots and playgrounds should be well-lit to ensure visibility and safety, especially during evening hours. Proper lighting can deter potential threats and make it easier to monitor these areas.
- **Bathrooms & Locker Rooms:** These areas should have strict supervision protocols and restricted access to ensure safety. Supervision in locker rooms should be more about staff being present in the area and listening for problems. For bathrooms, regular checks and monitoring can help in preventing any inappropriate behavior or incidents.
- **Cameras:** Using cameras to monitor entrances, hallways and playgrounds can enhance security without invading private areas. It's important to position cameras in a way that they cover critical areas while respecting privacy.
- **Furniture/Layout:** Removing couches, loveseats and other lounge furniture can help in maintaining appropriate interactions. Avoid using items like book shelves and other furniture to create secluded nooks that block visibility. This will help ensure that staff have good line of sight to supervise all activities.
- **"We Got This" Posters:** Ensure that a ["We Got This"](#) poster is posted in each building where students are present. Popular locations to put this poster include breakrooms, offices or main hallways.

## ACCESS & BOUNDARIES

- **Unmonitored Exits/Entrances:** Preventing unsupervised entry is essential for maintaining security. Unattended doors should never be blocked open. Remove door stops and check for anything placed between the door and frame to prevent it from latching such as small rocks, magnets, etc.
- **Visitor access:** Signs should direct visitors to check in at the main office. Staff should be expected to question adults who do not have a visitor badge.
- **Staff-only areas:** Students should not be allowed in staff only areas. These areas should have signs stating staff only, and doors should remain locked at all times.
- **Shared spaces:** Ensure all non-staff adults and students are not left alone without staff supervision, unless the adult has successfully completed the required background check process.

## BEHAVIORAL AND CULTURAL AWARENESS

- **Professional boundaries:** Have you set expectations with staff about professional boundaries with students? Using the PACE Quick Reference Guide "[Protect Yourself](#)" is a great resource to assist with setting these expectations.
- **Staff interactions:** Staff to staff interactions should be professional at all times, especially when students may be present.
- **Student dynamics:** Watch, address and hold accountable students who engage in peer-on-peer abuse or bullying.
- **Open dialogue:** Regularly discuss sexual abuse prevention with your staff and encourage them to voice concerns. This will help you set expectations with your staff and make your schools a safer learning environment for your students.

# TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Evaluate school readiness and compliance using resources from the [PACE sexual abuse prevention webpage](#).

- This webpage has a variety of resources including:
  - Quick reference guides
  - Lanyard and poster order forms
  - PSAs and webinars
  - Other resources to help you ensure compliance with Oregon laws related to sexual abuse prevention