

## **Module #10: Building Relationships Implementation Tool Determining Boundaries in Staff – Student Relationships**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this tool is to assist educators in a school to come to a consensus regarding the appropriate boundaries to maintain in their relationships with students. Staff participation in the activity is a starting point for the discussion and development of a school-wide consensus on healthy boundaries. There are different set of questions for elementary, middle and high school staff acknowledging the unique needs of each age group.

**Directions:** Using tape, chalk, or rope, make a straight line on the floor. Have the participants stand shoulder to shoulder facing the line, approximately 6-8 feet away from the line. Participants may stand on one side or both sides of the line, depending upon space in the room. After each statement is read, participants take a step toward the line indicating their agreement or disagreement with the statement. The closer someone steps to the line, the stronger their agreement with the statement. If they completely disagree, they should not move from the starting position.

Discussion about individual's positions on various activities can occur during the activity or as a follow-up in smaller group settings. Either way, as a group, it is important educators engage in intentional relationship building with common understandings, guidelines, and expectations for boundaries between adults and students. Within those parameters, staff will vary in their comfort and desire with specific actions.

### **Elementary Level Questions**

I think it is OK to ...

1. Transport student(s) home.
2. Call students to remind them to bring permission slips or other important items to school.
3. Make home visits for parent-teacher conferences.
4. Make home visits to follow up on concerns, including attendance and poor performance.
5. Go to students' important events outside of school (e.g., piano recitals, gymnastics tournaments).
6. Provide students with school supplies they do not have, including pencils, paper, markers, scissors, and glue.
7. Provide students with personal items they need, including food, shoes, coats, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and money.
8. Find ways to provide students with healthy snacks without being reimbursed.
9. Babysit for students when their parents are in need.
10. Touch a student when they are in need of a hug.
11. Keep a student's secrets.

## **Middle School Level Questions**

I think it is OK to ...

1. Friend students and their families on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and other social media.
2. Transport students home with parental permission using personal vehicles covered only by private insurance.
3. Make reminder calls for students regarding permission slips, registration information, and other important documentation.
4. Make wake up calls for students who have difficulty with attendance.
5. Accept calls from students outside of school hours.
6. Share personal phone numbers with students who need extra support on assignments.
7. Make home visits for parent-teacher conferences or before the beginning of the school year.
8. Make home visits to address emotional, social, or behavior concerns.
9. Attend students' games, concerts, and other important school events.
10. Attend students' important events outside of school (e.g., traveling team games, piano recital).
11. Touch a student and give them a hug, when it is needed.
12. Keep a student's secrets.

## **High School Level Questions**

I think it is OK to ...

1. Friend students on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat or other social media.
2. Transport students home when they do not have any other form of transportation.
3. Share personal phone numbers with students who need extra support on assignments.
4. Share personal phone numbers and email addresses with students who need extra emotional support.
5. Make reminder calls to students for permission slips or other important documents.
6. Make wake-up calls to students in the morning.
7. Accept calls from students in need during off-school hours.
8. Make home visits for academic reasons.
9. Make home visits to address emotional, social, or behavior concerns.
10. Attend students' games, concerts and other important school events.
11. Attend students' important events outside of school (e.g., traveling team games, piano recital).
12. Touch a student and give them a hug, when it is needed.
13. Allow a student to stay in my home if he/she has no place else to go.
14. Pay the bail for a student to get out of jail, if his parent/guardian cannot or would not.
15. Maintain relationships with students, after they are no longer in a teacher's courses.