



**NIM**  
**CCS**  
New Mexico  
Coalition for  
Charter Schools



**RISING UP**  
Taking Charters to New Heights

# Protecting Students from Sexual Predators with a Professional Boundaries Policy

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**Rising Up!**  
**Taking Charters to New Heights**

**2017 Annual Conference**



# 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

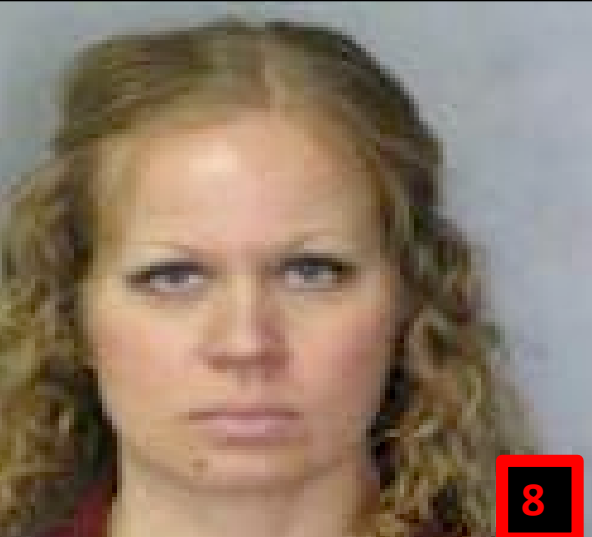
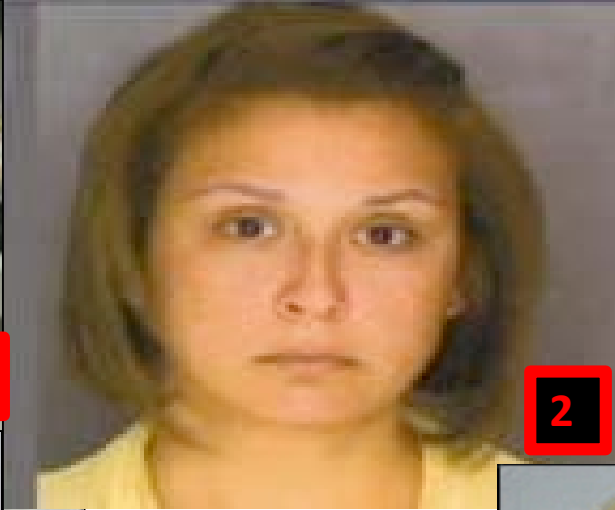


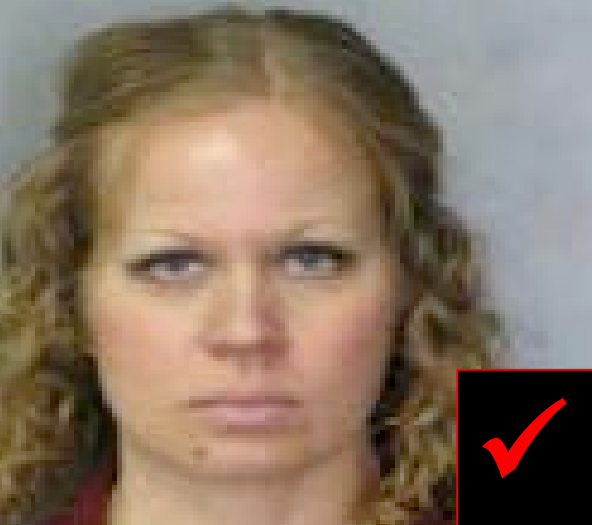
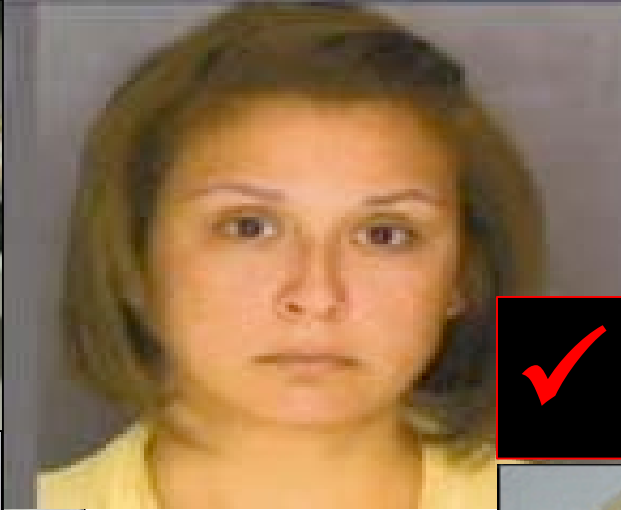
# Why do we need a Professional Boundaries Policy?



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

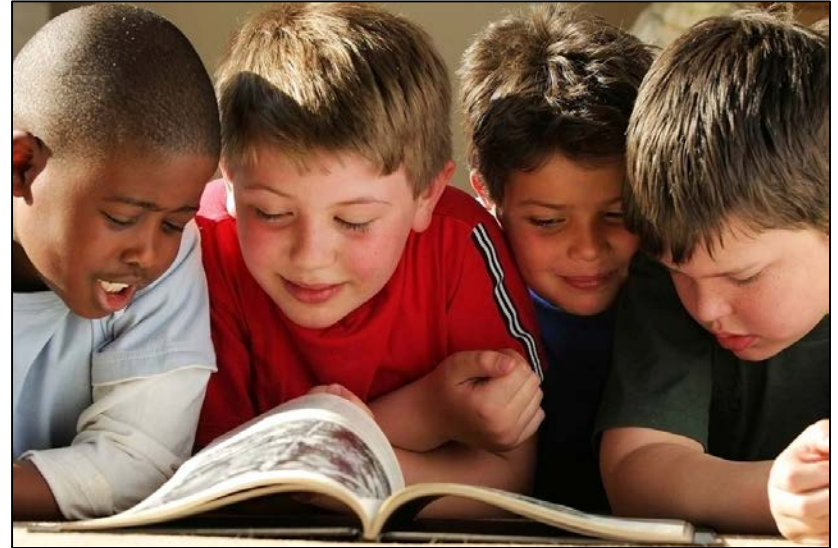


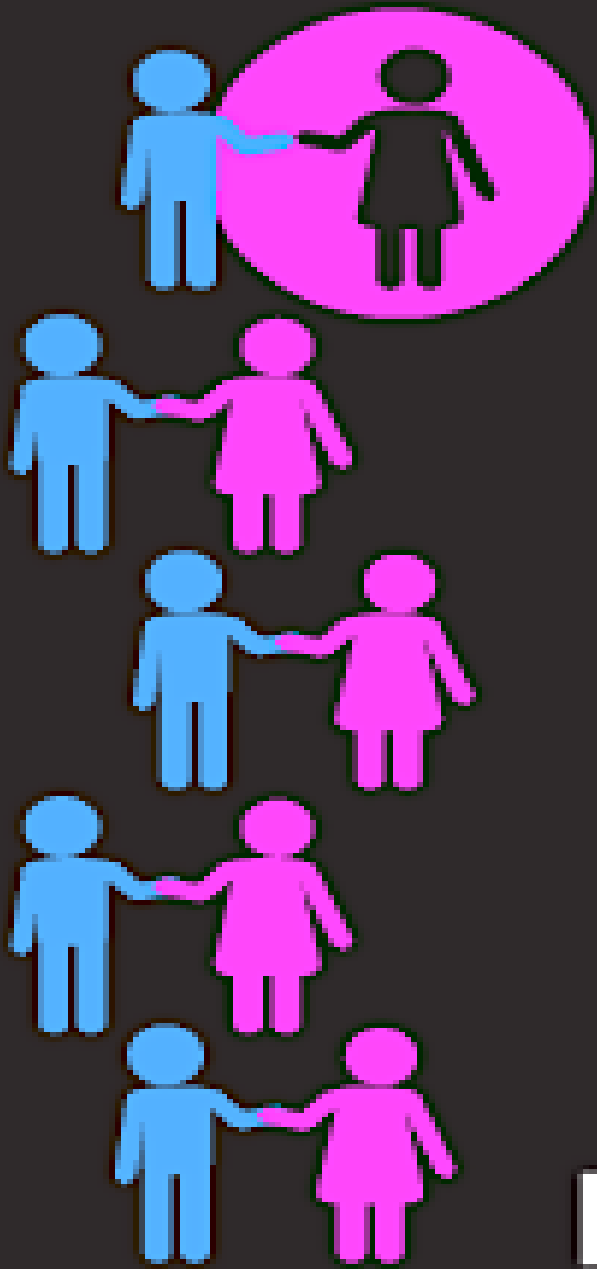
1 in 8 Boys

**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** <sup>out of</sup>  
**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



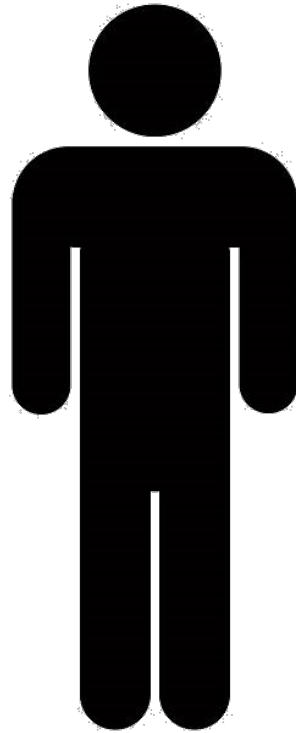
# Grooming Behaviors

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.)

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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Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.)

# 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.



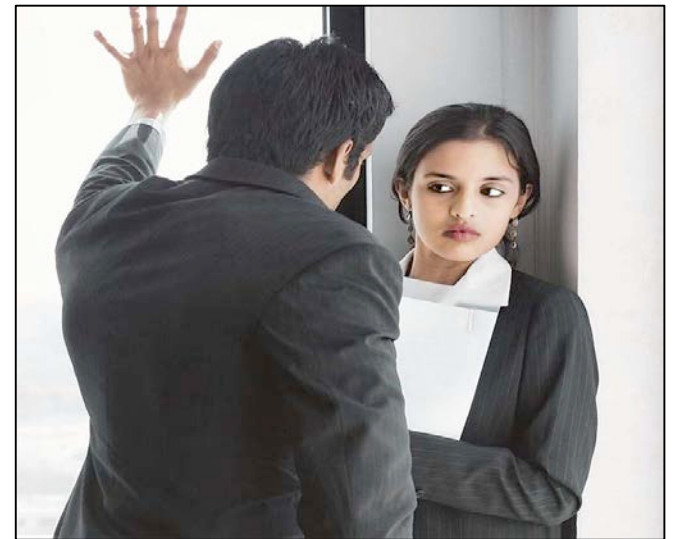


# The Approved Professional Boundaries Policy



# 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

**C**lear

**A**ppropriate

**R**espectful

**E**nvironment in

**S**chools



# 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.

