



Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in Schools: Strengthening Policies to Reduce Legal and Financial Liabilities

August 15, 2019
Salem State University
Viking Hall Room 123
Set your GPS for 70 Loring Avenue
Parking lot is at the intersection of Canal St. & Loring Ave)
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Registration and Light Continental Breakfast – 9:00 AM

This workshop, presented by MIIA and MassKids Salem Campus by the Center for Childhood and Youth Studies at Salem State University, will provide basic information about child sexual abuse and the specific policies and practices schools can implement to keep children safe and also to reduce legal liabilities. The workshop will focus on:

- **Laws** - Current Massachusetts laws and federal Title IX requirements will be highlighted as they relate to the responsibilities of schools and their personnel to protect students from sexual misconduct and abuse.
- **Staff Awareness Training** – Participants will learn about behavior signs to be aware of in adults that might indicate they pose a risk to children and teens, and ways abusers “groom” or establish trust with potential victims and their families. Behavior signs school personnel should be aware of in students that may indicate sexual abuse will be detailed.
- **Policy Development** - Policies that schools can implement to strengthen their capacity to keep children safe will be discussed, including the development and adoption of detailed Codes of Conduct for adult employees that prohibit specific boundary-violating behaviors. A list of 20 key behaviors schools should consider including in their Code of Conduct will be presented. Also discussed will be ways to modify physical spaces to reduce opportunities for sexual abuse to occur, and skills that can prepare administrators to respond early and appropriately to boundary violations before they can escalate to legally reportable offenses.
- **Reporting** - Attendees will learn how to appropriately and confidently handle disclosures from students when they report sexual misconduct or abuse by adults. Responsibilities of school staff and administrators to report suspected or disclosed cases to external authorities will be detailed.

Who should attend? Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, School Social Workers, Psychologists, Counselors, School Resource Officers, Town Managers, Human Resource Directors, Title IX Coordinators.

Attendance at this seminar qualifies the MIIA Member for .5% credit under the FY20 Public Officials, School Board or Law Enforcement Liability Category.

Jetta Bernier is Executive Director of MassKids, a 60-year-old statewide, citizen-based child advocacy organization where she directs the Enough Abuse Campaign, a community mobilization and citizen education initiative on child sexual abuse developed under a grant from the federal CDC (2002-2007) and now adopted in 8 states. She is a developer of several prevention education tools including: "Enough! Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in My School," a one-hour, evidence based e-learning course. Jetta served on the 11-member National Independent School Task Force on Educator Sexual Misconduct, and co-chairs the Policy Committee of the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.

David W. Dowd, Jr. **Assistant Vice President/Director of Claims**

David Dowd joined Cabot Risk Strategies, LLC in 2009 as a Claims Manager. David currently oversees the Property and Liability claim department. Under his direction, the department handles claims and litigation on behalf of MIIA Member Services. David has also managed the Massachusetts Injured on Duty program administered by Cabot Risk. Prior to joining Cabot, David worked as an adjuster and supervisor with a prominent MA carrier. His prior experience includes responsibility for claim & litigation management; development of case resolution strategies, mediation and settlement. He has also served as an internal and external compliance auditor. David received his Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Political Science from The University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

