



Stools For Schools

Over the past few years, MIIA has seen an upward trend in fall related claims in schools involving employees standing on chairs, desks, heating units, etc. Typically, the falls occur when teachers or paraprofessionals are attempting to hang wall coverings (art work, educational materials, etc). Some of these falls have resulted in serious injury and have left very talented teachers unable to return to work.

To help address this trend, MIIA is issuing a reminder to our members to reiterate to their employees that only proper stools or ladders should be used and to never use a chair or table when hanging wall coverings. We are also making proper stools an eligible item under our risk management grant program. Please contact your Risk Management Representative to determine if your school has experienced these types of fall related claims.

Below are some simple steps to follow on how to safely use a step stool:

1. Wear proper footwear when climbing stools or ladders. No sandals or high heels.
2. Place the stool as close as possible to the area where you will be working.
3. Test the stool to make sure it is even and will not move by keeping one foot on the ground and your other foot on the stool.
4. Hold onto the arm or back of the stool, or the wall if needed to gain your balance. Let go and step down from the stool if you are not confident in your footing.
5. Reach as needed to accomplish the task and be careful not to lean over too far.
6. Once finished, step off the stool the same way you stepped on, one foot at a time.

