

MUSIC MATTERS

Volume 25 | 3rd Quarter 2021



Sexual Misconduct in Missouri Schools: An Ounce of Prevention Is Worth a Pound of Cure

Jackie Turnage-Ferber

Client Training and Technology Coordinator

Ben Franklin coined the axiom “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” to remind the citizens of Philadelphia to remain vigilant about fire awareness and safety. This axiom is as true today as it was in 1736. But what exactly does this idiom mean? The expression suggests that it is better and easier to prevent a problem before it happens than to stop or correct it after it has happened. MUSIC Sexual Misconduct: Staff-to-Student training is an excellent example of taking proactive, preventative action to keep our kids safe.

While MUSIC members know that the MUSIC Sexual Misconduct: Staff-to-Student training is required by MUSIC, many members may not know why this is a requirement. So why does MUSIC require this training every year? MUSIC believes that Missouri students are best protected when sexual misconduct training is completed by faculty and staff, whether full-time or part-time, and all substitute and student teachers. MUSIC also encourages this course to be assigned to School Board members and volunteers working with students regularly.



If the MUSIC Sexual Misconduct: Staff-to-Student course is not completed by faculty and staff, and a sexual misconduct loss occurs, the member school will be subject to a \$100,000 deductible per claim. Conversely, if the training is completed by faculty and staff and a sexual misconduct loss occurs, the \$100,000 deductible will be waived. The training is a powerful, preventative tool in the prevention of child abuse and sexual improprieties.

The MUSIC Sexual Misconduct: Staff-to-Student course is the **required** replacement for the previous training titled Smarter Adults, Safer Children. The course is available through VectorSolutions (formerly SafeSchools). The subject matter focuses on preventing, recognizing, and reporting potential or actual child abuse and misconduct. There are many state requirements. MUSIC wants educators to be aware of and understand their obligations in issues involving child abuse and the importance of the child's safety and well-being in acting promptly in reporting these issues. This training empowers schools to equip employees with knowledge and an ounce of prevention.

MUSIC believes the sexual misconduct training is vital to protecting Missouri students and MUSIC members against the profound and lasting horrors of sexual misdeeds. The MUSIC Sexual Misconduct: Staff-to-Student training must be completed each calendar year and is due by December 31, 2021.

**REQUIRED
TRAINING**



Contact Information:

Jackie Turnage-Ferber, Client Training and Technology Coordinator
(Phone) 314.800.2234 | (Email) jackie_turnage-ferber@ajg.com