

What Should Be in Your Insurance Toolkit

Ryan Doyle & Trevor Smith



December 5, 2025 | **NIU NAPERVILLE**



Introductions



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Agenda



Introduction to Property/Casualty Insurance for Schools



Property Insurance: Protecting Your Assets



Liability Insurance: Safeguarding Against Risks



Cyber Insurance: Defending Against Digital Threats



Q&A Session



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Introduction to Property/Casualty Insurance

- Schools face unique risks: property damage, liability claims, and cyber threats.
- Insurance ensures financial stability and operational continuity.
- Tailored solutions address the specific needs of educational institutions.

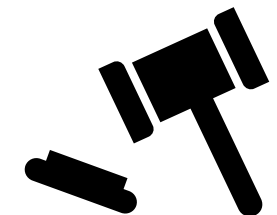
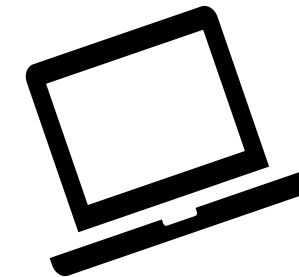


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Overview of Property/Casualty Insurance

- Property Insurance: Protects physical assets (buildings, equipment, etc.).
- Liability Insurance: Covers legal and financial responsibilities.
 - Slip/Trip/Falls
 - School Board Legal Liability
 - Auto Liability
 - Sexual Abuse
- Cyber Insurance: Mitigates risks from cyberattacks and data breaches.



Importance of Property Insurance

- Protects buildings, equipment, and other physical assets.
- Covers risks like fire, natural disasters, vandalism, and theft.
- Ensures quick recovery and minimal disruption to school operations.



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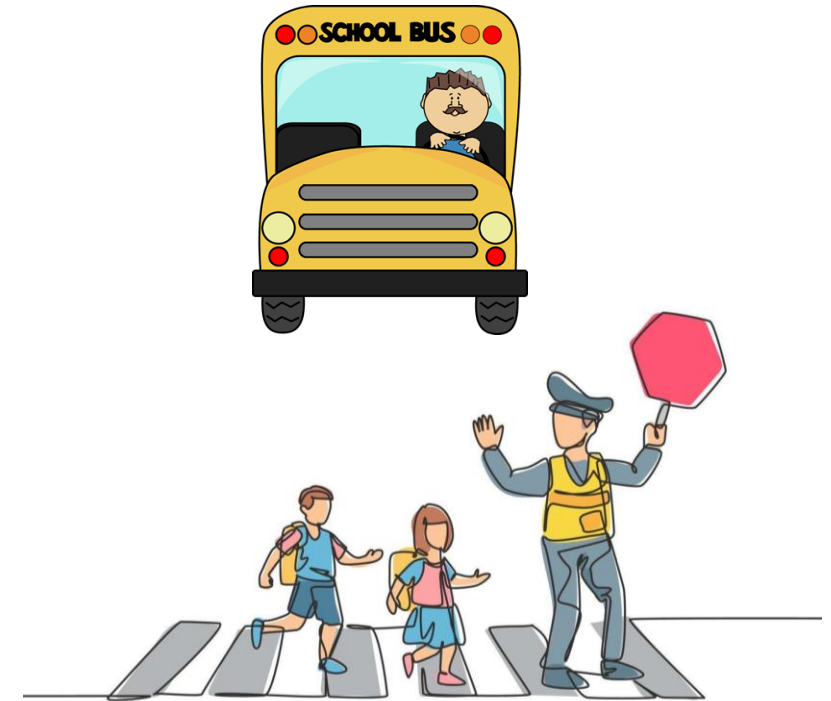
Wind/Hail Deductible? How does this apply?

- 2% Wind/Hail Deductible = 2% deductible of the building value
- Building Value = \$20,000,000
- Wind/Hail Deductible = \$400,000



Liability Insurance

- Protects against lawsuits and claims for bodily injury, property damage, or negligence.
- Essential for schools due to high interaction with students, staff, and the public.



Higher Limits – Why They Matter

- Higher limits provide better protection against large claims.
- Schools face increasing litigation risks; higher limits mitigate financial exposure.
- “Nuclear Verdicts” continue to be on the rise (Cook County)



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“Insured to value” - Importance of Appraisals

- Accurate appraisals ensure proper coverage and avoid underinsurance.
- Regular updates reflect changes in property value and inflation.
- Helps in claims processing by providing documented valuations.
- **Margin Clause?** What is this?
- 125% Margin Clause – The insurance company will only pay up to 125% of the building value that was listed on the policy



Sexual Abuse and Molestation Coverage

- Critical for protecting students and staff.
- Covers legal defense costs, settlements, and judgments.
- Demonstrates a commitment to safety and accountability.
- “Failure to Prevent or Respond to Abuse”
 - Document, Document, Document! - Report incidents, even if you think nothing will come out of it...
 - Without documentation, it is very difficult to prove what actions were taken in defense of the district



Student Accident Insurance

- Helps tackle immediate hospital bills for injuries sustained during school sponsored sports / events
- Example: Concussion during a school-sponsored football game and the parents sue for negligence



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Cyber Insurance

- Schools are prime targets for cyberattacks due to sensitive data.
- Covers costs related to data breaches, ransomware, and system recovery.
- Ensures compliance with data protection regulations.



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Key Cybersecurity Controls

- **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):** Adds an extra layer of security.
 - Critical Data Users
 - MFA for Email
 - Remote Employees
- **Offsite Backups:** Ensures data recovery in case of ransomware attacks (different from Onsite backups)
 - Weekly Backups preferred
- **Endpoint Detection:** Monitors and protects devices from threats.
- **HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE!** Step-by-step guide for staff if locked out of computers/network



Key Takeaways

- **Property insurance protects physical assets.**
 - Appraisals are essential for confident values.
 - Avoid Wind/Hail deductibles!
- **Liability insurance safeguards against lawsuits**
 - Continue to push for high limits of insurance
 - Specialized coverages are critical (sexual abuse)
 - Document, Document, Document
- **Cyber insurance defends against digital threats**
 - Proactive controls reduce risks (MFA, Offsite Backups, Endpoint Detection)
 - Have a plan in place for staff if you are hacked



Questions and Answers

We thank you for your time!



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