

# *Risk Manager*

Answers, resources and information to help assess and reduce risk

## **Back to the Future on Campus By Sharon Orr**

Hoverboards, self-balancing scooters, smart skateboards – regardless of the name, the safety concerns are the same. Hoverboards have the potential to create new safety challenges for schools and colleges to consider, and recent reports of these toys exploding and catching fire have raised additional safety concerns. As a result, many school districts and colleges across the nation are choosing to ban these devices from their campuses.

School districts and colleges throughout the commonwealth may have existing internal policy related to bikes and skateboards on campus. Some school districts address storage of the bikes in appropriate bike racks and skateboard storage in the main office to preclude usage inside and outside the building when school is in session. Special consideration would have to be involved related to the storage of hoverboards, in light of the potential for explosions and fires.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has issued safety warnings for hoverboards, due to recent fires related to a lithium-ion battery and chargers. Read more on the topic at <http://www.nfpa.org/press-room/news-releases/2015/nfpa-issues-fire-safety-warnings-on-hover-boards>.

Additionally, a recent news release on January 20, 2016, indicates that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission currently has active safety investigations open on more than 10 manufacturers/distributors of hoverboards and has

not yet made any determinations about the safety of those brands.

Risk Management advises school districts to review their current internal policies on personal transportation devices and consult with their solicitor on addendums to address the issue of hoverboards on campus. Changes to current property signage may also be necessary.

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For additional information or training on best practices and safety management within your school entity, please contact Director of Risk Management Sharon Orr at (866) 401-6600, ext. 7152 or [sorr@cmregent.com](mailto:sorr@cmregent.com).