

Frequently Asked Questions

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Aren't we covered under the school's policy?

More and more parent teacher groups are calling us stating that the school district is removing them from the school's insurance policy. There are some schools out there, however, who might still cover the parent teacher group under their policy. The best advice is to give your school a list of your activities and be very specific. Don't just ask if your carnival is covered, go into great detail and list things like moon walk, dunking tank, face painting, pony rides, etc., and get a written letter from the school stating that all of your activities are covered. Some policies only cover the parent teacher group for events during school hours and on school campus. Every school is different.

Do we need to have parents sign a waiver for our events?

As a risk management practice, this is a good idea. It isn't required by the insurance, but it does bring forth somewhat of a responsibility back to the parents. This will help to

reduce the probability of a claim and provide an additional defense in court, but can not stop someone from filing a lawsuit.

Do we need to send AIM a list of all of our events for the year?

For coverage to be effective, you do not have to submit a list of all of your events to us. Please check with the Covered and Excluded Events document also provided through this website to check if your event is covered. If you don't see your specific event listed here, please call us at 1-800-876-4044 to make sure that coverage is provided.

Can events be held off of school grounds?

The policies provided through AIM cover the parent teacher group anywhere within the United States. Whether you are in Florida or California or anywhere in-between, you can have your event off site.

We can't find coverage for bounce houses anywhere...does AIM cover those?

Kids absolutely love bounce houses and other inflatable games. There are a lot of insurance companies out there who will not cover bounce houses (aka bouncy bounce, moon walk, astro jump, etc) or other inflatables due to the high probability of claims. AIM is proud to say that we **do** cover all of these listed above.

Is alcohol covered?

Alcohol is covered under the General Liability policy. This, however, does not cover incidents where an attendee has participated in drinking alcohol and is involved in an auto accident. This is covered under the participant's individual auto insurance. We would strongly suggest if you are doing an event where alcohol is served to get Officer's Liability as well. This protects you for making the "decision" to serve alcohol at your event.

Does AIM cover swim parties?

AIM absolutely covers swim parties. We also provide coverage for water slide and diving board mishaps.

What other kind of parties does AIM cover?

Along with swim parties, we cover ice cream socials, pizza parties, roller skating parties, ice skating parties, end of school parties, holiday parties, and others. You may also find this information on the list of Covered and Excluded Events within AIM's website.

How is the General Liability different from the Accident Medical?

The General Liability specifically covers lawsuits in the event of a bodily injury claim. The Accident Medical provides out of pocket medical expense to help avoid lawsuits. The Accident Medical policy also provides coverage for things that are excluded from the General Liability policy including automobiles, school buses (for field trips), mechanical rides, watercraft, and fireworks.

Who is covered under the Bond?

The Bond policy (Commercial Crime) is a blanket bond which covers anyone who your organization trusts with the money. This can be a President, Treasurer, Volunteer, Committee Chairperson, courier or others.

Do we have to name everyone covered by the bond.

We do not require you to list the person(s) covered by this bond nor their positions within your organization.

AIM requires that someone who does not have check signing authority review the monthly bank statement. Why is this required?

This is a preventative measure set in place to accomplish two things: to protect your organization from having a loss, and to limit the amount dollar amount of the loss through early detection. The person who doesn't have checking authority should date and sign the monthly bank statement indicating it has been reviewed.

Can the treasurer do the bank reconciliation and then give it to someone else to review?

Yes, the treasurer should reconcile the bank statement, it's one of their duties. It's also a good idea to have someone else review the reconciliation. The goal is having someone else looking over the treasurer's shoulder, or another set of eyes double checking that everything looks in order. If something looks suspicious, that second person will be able to point it out early. Make sure that the person reviewing the reconciliation is actually monitoring the activities of the organization and not just simply initialing the statement.

What are other organizations doing to fulfill the requirement of having someone who can't sign checks review the bank statement?

The best idea that we have heard is from a group in Pennsylvania. They have set it up to where the Vice President (president elect) does not have check signing authority and reviews the monthly bank statement. The benefit of this system is that when that Vice President becomes President, they will know exactly what's been going on with the organization's monies and how to budget it for the coming year. This is a fantastic idea. Another good idea is to do business with a bank what offers online banking. This way

any officer can get online and see what monies are flowing in and out of the account on a daily basis.

The application we have says that Robbery or Theft is not covered. Is this true?

In the past, only embezzlement of funds was covered by AIM's Bond. However, effective 9/1/2004, all bond policies cover embezzlement, robbery, and theft.

We had a fundraiser to purchase a marquis for our school. Is that covered under our property policy?

Your Property policy covers any personal property of the parent teacher group, such as popcorn machines, computers, disaster relief supplies, your school store supplies and fundraising merchandise. For example, let's say your group purchases a marquis for the school. Between the time the marquis is purchased and the time it is implanted in the ground, it is covered under your Property policy. However, once this marquis is planted in the ground, it then becomes real property of the school and is covered under the school's insurance policy. Also, computers, books and other property purchased for the school becomes school property and is not covered by your Property policy.

We've heard that we have to "gift" things to the school that we donate. What does that mean?

This is not a requirement of the policy. When you donate something with a gift letter, then the receiving party accepts responsibility for those items and it further separates your group from liability. This is a good idea for anything that your group donates to the school. Please remember that "gifting or trusting" items to a school will provide some defense in court but can not stop someone from filing a lawsuit.

How do I apply for coverage?

You can apply online with a check or a credit card. If you do not wish to do that, AIM can mail, email, or fax you an application for you to fill out and send back in with the correct premium.

When will my coverage go into effect?

Your policy will start the day that AIM receives the completed application and correct premium for coverage. It will run a full year from that date.

If I buy more than one policy, do I get a discount?

Because of the large amount of insureds that AIM covers, these prices already reflect a group discount built in. We talk to many groups who are paying well over \$2,000/year for their insurance.

How is the General Liability different from Officer's Liability.

General Liability protects you if someone is injured at one of your sponsored events. Officer's Liability protects if someone alleges that you have misrepresented your parent teacher group. Things such as misrepresentation, giving out false or misleading information, mismanagement (bylaws), or things which are detrimental to the community are covered under Officer's Liability.

Aren't parent teacher groups immune from liability?

This is a question that many people are confused on, especially if the group is incorporated. The answer is that parent teacher groups are not immune from liability. Being incorporated does help protect the group, but there have been many situations where the "corporate shield" that being incorporated provides has not helped in preventing a lawsuit.

How do I determine what bond limit we need?

This is a question that each group has to answer for themselves. A safe practice is to take your annual budget and carry a bond for that amount. If you are still unsure about how much to carry, then project what your biggest fundraiser of the year will bring in and carry a bond for that amount.