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Important Update for MN BPA Chapter Advisors

Safety, Policies, and Conference Planning for SLC 2026

MN BPA Chapter Advisors,

Thank you for your continued support and preparation as we approach our upcoming BPA events. Our recent meeting covered several important updates regarding safety, logistics, testing, and conference planning. Please review the key points below and share them with your administration as needed. MN BPA is committed to proactive planning and strong advocacy for student and advisor safety.

Event Safety & Financial Considerations

- Recent unrest in the city prompted a review of event safety protocols.
- Canceling the hotel contract would incur a cost of approximately \$150,000.
- A **fully closed campus model** is being implemented to ensure student safety (students remain onsite from arrival to departure).
- Students who refuse to follow rules will be dismissed from conference and will need to be picked up by parents should they choose to leave the conference facility. Students unable to follow closed-campus rules may not be suitable participants.
- The Hyatt Regency Hotel is working with us to provide food options, including pre-purchased dinners and market coupons which will be on your housing invoice to hotel.

Event Security & Registration Updates

- Food delivery services (e.g., Uber Eats) will not be reliable or permitted due to security concerns – you are strongly encouraged to utilize the hotel options.
- Additional hotel security measures have already been put in place by the Hyatt.
- Advisors may be asked to sign up for monitoring shifts during the event and MN BPA is working to secure outside security to supplement.
- Nearly **1,000 participants** are currently registered – you are encouraged to register and proceed. You can **cancel your hotel rooms up to 3 days prior** to conference if directives from your administration indicate the need to cancel.

Chaperone Requirements & Additional Security

- Name badges must be worn at all times for identification by all participants.
- Recommended chaperone ratio: **1 per 15 students** (current policy/recommendation for SLC).
- Your school district may use contracted security due to limited chaperone availability.

Conference Funding

- Chapters are encouraged to have discussion with administration regarding their consortium's policies for use of Perkins funding for chaperones and transportation support.

Event Policies

- BPA cannot accommodate **makeup tests for contests** for chapters attending only one day of a two-day conference due to capacity limits. We do not have the lab capacity & adult assistance to condense a 2 ½ day event into a 1 day event. Conference will not have a virtual option.

If you have questions or need clarification on any of these updates, feel free to reach out. Thank you for your partnership in ensuring a safe, successful, and well-organized experience for all BPA participants.

Warm regards,

MN BPA Leadership Team