

# Kansas Association of School Boards

November

## Avoiding Slips and Falls

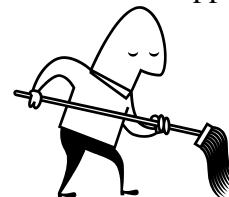
A middle school staff member was recently injured when she fell on a piece of food that had been taken out of the school cafeteria. She shattered her wrist when she put her hand behind her to break her fall. Unfortunately, these types of injury occur all too often. In an effort to reduce them the following items should be considered.



- Areas where food may be consumed should be clearly defined and communicated to all staff and students. You should refrain from taking food out of these areas and encourage others to remain until finished with their food.
- Adequate dustpans, brooms, mops, and buckets should be readily available so that any dropped food or spillages may be immediately cleaned up. In the case of liquid spills, wet floor signs should be displayed until the area concerned has dried.



- All spills should be immediately cleaned up or barricaded by the individual who spilled them. If this is not practical, a report should be made to the appropriate person who may attend to the spill.



- Every staff member should pay attention to their surroundings at all times. This includes while walking. If you notice food or liquid you should avoid walking through it or, better yet, stop and clean it up yourself.

Slips and falls may happen anywhere, at anytime. Typically there is some foreign object like food, liquid, or ice that may contribute to the accident. The majority of the causes are still behavioral though. Making good choices, like wearing good shoes, holding the handrail on stairs, and watching where you are walking, may help you avoid being the next victim.