

# Liability Lessons Learned

## Keeping Sight of Eye Injuries

Over the past few months, there have been a number of lawsuits against member districts involving student eye injuries resulting in altered vision and even loss of an eye.

The most recent case involves a student that was participating in a science class project involving the launching of plastic bottle rockets. When the student pulled the cord to launch his rocket, the cord flew back at him with a metal connected at the end of the cord. The metal prong struck the student in the right eye resulting in the student having surgery to repair a ruptured globe. The cost of this claim was in the six figures.

While the student has made an excellent recovery and regained vision, this incident was preventable. For science projects of this kind, protective eye glasses or goggles should have been mandated by the instructor.

ASCIP recommends that eye protection be worn for activities involving projectile objects, use of powered equipment, chemicals, or other foreseeable hazards. Districts should have eye protection available for all students.

Please contact ASCIP staff at (562) 404-8029 should you have any questions or need further assistance with regards to this issue.



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