

### **Tips from Tim - Summer 2009:**

As you are about to begin summer break, be reminded that you are not “*off the clock*” as a teacher or education professional since you aren’t at the school house everyday. Because of your chosen profession, you are held to a much higher standard, whether it is fair or not, than, say, the manager of a fast food establishment or the teller at a bank. As an educator, you are scrutinized in all that you do, especially in any contact that you have with your students outside the classroom. I am not suggesting that you turn your head the other way and not even say “*hi*” to one of your students at the mall. But, under no circumstance should you be texting them or calling them on their cell phones. If you are close friends with any of your student’s parents to the point where you “hang out” with them during the summer, you should be careful not to give those students any extra attention or allow them to have an increased level of familiarity with you that could be observed as being inappropriate. I know, I know, you’re saying you work at a small school where everybody gets along and no one “*ever*” makes any claims of inappropriate activity against anyone. And, for the most part, I’m sure that’s true. But, there are very few “*nevers*” and not many “*always*” in life...particularly when it comes to the law. So, as you pack up your desk and get ready to get away from it all for a while, keep in mind that “*Roz*” from *Monsters, Inc.* the movie had it right when she said, ***"I'm watching you, Wazowski. Always watching."*** Take care, have a great summer, and remember that the PET legal office is open year round. If you need us, we’ll leave the light on for ya’.



Aloha,  
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PET Legal & Legislative Liaison