An Introduction to the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act

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“Harassment, intimidation or bullying” means any intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act [which]
a) Physically harms a student or damages the student’s property; or
b) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s education; or
c) Is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
d) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.
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Context Setting:

ERate — 1996
- Schools & Libraries Program of the Universal Services Fund
- Universal Service Administrative Company
- FCC
- Discounts/reimbursements for technology

CIPA — 2000
- Children’s Internet Protection Act
- Requires:
  a. Filtering – visual depictions of obscenity; child porn; things ‘harmful to minors’
  b. Policy - includes filtering and monitoring online activities
  c. AUP – access to inappropriate materials; safety & security; hacking; ID protection
Dear Colleague:

In recent years, many state departments of education and local school districts have taken steps to reduce bullying in schools. 

Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling; graphic and written statements, which may include use of cell phones or the Internet; or other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. ...
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Broadband Data Improvement Act — 2008
S. 1492 / Public Law 110-385

An Act
To improve the quality of Federal and State data regarding the availability and quality of broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation.

Department of Commerce / National Telecommunications Information Agency (NTIA):
Conduct studies
Gather data around broadband deployment, nationally
To: inform future legislation
   enhance economic development
   improve the competitiveness of the US
   further public safety, health care, educational opportunities
...through broadband.
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Broadband Data Improvement Act

OSTWG Report:  Youth Safety on a Living Internet, 2010

- the state of the Internet *now*
- the state of youth Internet safety
- *not just technology*
- *not just content* but also -
- behavior.

- The Internet is *living space* where life, society, civility and global citizenship play out *in real time.*
The Broadband Act
Title II:
Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act

Section 215 require[s] elementary and secondary schools with computer access to the Internet to educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting...on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response as a part of their Internet safety policy.
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NB: These are not technology issues. They are social, developmental, educational, prevention-intervention, risk & protective, school climate, Common Core Standards issues.

It’s a different kind of “savvy”.
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Social Networking:

In our Web 2.0 world

Communication via some online platform
Community building online
Friending...Blogging...Gaming...Fan Communities.
Self-created online personae

How are the communities formed?

*Creative & Collaborative...*

*Participatory process*

LOL = Life on line

For all of us, this this generates

**Freedom, Power, Responsibility**
Within This Context:

The biggest danger for young people online is...

↓

other young people.

Cyberbullying

Bullying:
Intentional, repeated, negative behavior toward another/others, involving a lack of empathy and an imbalance of power.

Using the Internet or other mobile devices to send or post harmful or cruel text or images to bully others.

Cyberbullying is willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones and other electronic devices.

Nancy Willard, Director, Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use

Sameer Hinduja & Justin Patchin, *Bullying Beyond the Schoolyard*
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Bullying – With a Difference

- Speed & auto repeat
- Distortions of time and space
- Greater physical, temporal, psychological distance
- Fewer “filters”
- Lots can happen before all participants know
- No safe harbors
- Public – Can go viral / Unlimited supply of “end users”
- Potential for ‘role reversal’
- Sense of anonymity
- Permanence
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Bringing it all together
The Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act directs E-rate applicants to also certify that their CIPA-required Internet safety policies provide for the education of students regarding appropriate online behavior including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and regarding cyberbullying awareness and response. We implement this statutory language verbatim.

Although it is possible that certain individual Facebook or MySpace pages could potentially contain material harmful to minors, we do not find that these websites are per se “harmful to minors” or fall into one of the categories that schools and libraries must block.

Indeed, the U.S. Department of Education recently found that social networking websites have the potential to support student learning, stating that students can “participate in online social networks where people from all over the world share ideas, collaborate, and learn new things
Therefore:

#1. Policy Update

- **Update** district policy to meet the new requirements
- **Add** “Part 4” of your CIPA / ERate / Internet Safety policy
- **State** that you *educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting...on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response as a part of that Internet safety policy*
- **Consider**, clarify and disseminate your approach to S-N and social networking sites

- **July 2012**
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#2. Prepare to implement the new requirement

- **Prepare** your staff:
  - Policy change
  - Processes & procedures
  - Awareness (of cyberbullying & other digital safety / citizenship issues)
  - Select materials
  - Train (all) staff

- **NB**: not tech issues, but safety, citizenship, literacy...
- **Involve** your whole community
#2. To implement: Train

- Awareness of:
  - Digital Safety & Security
  - Digital Citizenship
  - 21st Century Literacy skills
  - Social networking; chat rooms
  - Cyberbullying

- Cyberbullying:
  - Infused into ongoing bullying prevention-intervention programs
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#2. Consider A Tiered Approach

- **Tier 1 - Universal**
- **Tier 2 - Secondary**
- **Tier 3 - Tertiary**

Intervention

Prevention-Intervention

Prevention: ALL

- Prevention: ALL
- Tier 2 – Secondary
- Tier 3 - Tertiary
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#2. To implement: Find:

- Materials:
  - “Tested-Effective” *versus* Trusted/Legit sources
  - “Curriculum” *versus* stand-alone/one-shot
  - Age appropriate content
  - Appropriate, current, true & correct messaging
  - Accessible / handy
  - Teachable / adaptable / classroom ready
  - User-friendly / ‘trainable’
#3. Staff Guidance on Social Networking

1. **Know** the policy and procedures
2. **Keep** personal & educational accounts separate
3. **Never friend a student** on a personal site
4. **Do not share** personal info on an educational site
5. **NB**: you are essentially extending your day (nexus)
6. **Bricks-mortar rules** apply online
7. **Inform & involve** administration
8. **Inform & involve** parents/guardians *
9. **Do not friend other adults** **
#3. Staff Guidance on Social Networking

10. Read & know all the Terms of Use documentation
11. Read, understand, set up all appropriate privacy settings
12. Instruct students: this is an educational site
13. Instruct students on Terms of Use & Privacy
14. Inform students that you are obligated to report illegal, abusive, bullying and other negative/dangerous behaviors
15. Monitor the site closely
#3. **/ *** Special Considerations)

* Inviting **parents** to join/participate is inviting parents to be involved in your classroom every day. The parents would have to know that they should not join using their ‘personal’ sites. Remember students from broken, blended, other non-standard families & those with no-contact orders. Potential risk and liability issues arise.

** Allow for the possibility of inviting “**special guests**” for specific educational purposes.
For such a professional guest profile-type, establish a vetting process, done by the educator using some sort of rubric. Establish what the expert guest would need to agree to be involved? Consider the involvement of teaching team members, student teachers, specialists, counselors and/or administrators.
#4. As you plan to implement: Avoid

1. **Missing the July 2012 policy update deadline!**
   - unless ERate is not an issue for you

2. **One-shot inoculations**
   - A note home in the opening of school packet
   - One assembly
   - Digital Safety Day

3. **Scare tactics – ‘techno-phobia’**
   - Ala the *old* DARE program
   - *Scared Straight*
   - A lot of messaging from the media
   - “Stranger danger” messages
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#4. As you plan to implement: Avoid

4. “NIMBY”
   - “our kids wouldn’t do that”
   - “our kids are too smart for that”

5. “Just say no” approach
   - “No” to what?
   - Like scare tactics, this simply doesn’t work

6. PCP approach
   - relegate digital safety to “the other guy”
   - separation from regular classroom/curriculum
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#4. As you plan to implement: Avoid

7. A ‘tech issue’ approach
   - similar to PCP
   - Let the tech teacher deal with this!

8. ‘Go it alone’ approach
   - Lack of inclusion/involvement by families, law enforcement, community experts, etc.

9. Missing the July 2012 policy update deadline!
   - unless ERate is not an issue for you
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For Questions

Contact

http://www.k12.wa.us/SafetyCenter/default.aspx
http://www.k12.wa.us/SafetyCenter/InternetSafety/default.aspx

Call: 360-725-6044