Cyberbullying Summit

*Where Are We Now?*

Mike Donlin, Program Supervisor
OSPI, The School Safety Center
Where Are We Now?

HIB/Bullying In Washington State:

- SHS 2801, 2010: [AN ACT relating to antiharassment strategies in public schools](#)
  - Policy & Procedure
  - Compliance Officers

- SSHB 1163, 2011: [Anti-HIB Work Group](#)

- Resources: [Bullying & Harassment](#); [Cyberbullying & Digital/Internet Safety](#)

- US Department of Education: [Analysis of State Bullying Laws and Policies](#)
Where Are We Now?

Nationally:

Broadband Data Improvement Act, 2008

Protecting Children in the 21st C. Act:

[This 2008 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.

Federal Communications Commission REPORT AND ORDER, August 2011

Deadline: July, 2012
Where Are We Now?

Definitions: HIB In Washington State:

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying is an intentional *electronic*, written, verbal or physical act that

-Physically harms a student or damages the student’s property; or

-Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s education; or

-Is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or

-Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.
Where Are We Now?

Definitions:

**Bullying:**
- intentional harm-doing
- negative action
- repeated over time
- an imbalance of power

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

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

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

Sameer Hinduja & Justin Patchin, *Bullying Beyond the Schoolyard*
What we know:

- Cyberbullying *is* bullying
- Cyberbullying is *not* a technology issue
- Neither bullying nor cyberbullying is an “epidemic”
  The numbers remain fairly constant over time and space
- For young people, “bullying” and “cyberbullying” are essentially one and the same
- They are the same; but there are specific differences
Where Are We Now?

What we know:

- Bullying impacts school climate, personal safety & academic achievement
- Bullying does not “cause” suicide
- “Bullcide” – and “cyberbullcide” - are terms to avoid
- The biggest danger for young people online is other young people
- What *does* works and what *does not* work in bullying/cyberbullying prevention and intervention
Where Are We Now?

What we know:

Liability Issues Around HIB/Bullying/Cyberbullying:
Schools may be found liable if it can be shown that...

1. The school environment has been altered for a targeted student/s.
2. Any staff knew or should have known what was happening.
3. There was a failure to act.
4. There was deliberate indifference.
Where Are We Now?

What works:

- Prevention before intervention
- Clear & consistent policies & procedures
- Education & information
- Having a trusted adult to talk to
- Actively teaching digital safety & digital citizenship
- Restorative practices & peer/social norming
- A common, community-wide voice
Where Are We Now?

A Tiered Framework:

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

Prevention - Intervention
What to Avoid:

- Techno-panic!
- Zero-tolerance policies
- Non best / promising practice ‘solutions’
- Fear-based messaging
- Reliance of technological solutions, alone
- Talking of “bullycide” / “cyberbullycide”
- Conflict resolution / peer mediation
- Doing nothing
Where Are We Now?

What we need:

- Common understandings
- Common vocabulary
- Reliable data
- Consistent training: Yes, you can respond to cyberbullying issues!
- Clear and consistent messaging
- Resources
Where Are We Now?

Resources:

- Bullying and Harassment

- Cyberbullying & Digital/Internet Safety