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Suggestions for Educators

Cyber-Bullying: Suggestions for Educators

- ▶ **Educate your students, teachers, and other staff** members about cyber-bullying, its dangers, and what to do if someone is cyber-bullied.
- ▶ Be sure that **your school's anti-bullying rules and policies** address cyber-bullying. (AUP and Student Code of Conduct, Board Policies)
- ▶ Closely **monitor students' use** of computers at school.
- ▶ **Use filtering and tracking software** on all computers, but don't rely solely on this software to screen out cyber-bullying and other problematic on-line behavior.
- ▶ **Investigate reports of cyber-bullying immediately.** If cyber-bullying occurs through the school district's Internet system, you are obligated to take action. If the cyber-bullying occurs off-campus, **consider what actions you might take to help address the bullying:**
 - ▶ Notify parents of victims and parents of cyber-bullies of known or suspected cyber-bullying.
 - ▶ Notify the police if the known or suspected cyber-bullying involves a threat.
 - ▶ Closely monitor the behavior of the affected students at school for possible bullying. Remember — cyber-bullying that occurs off-campus can travel like wildfire among your students and can affect how they behave and relate to each other at school.
 - ▶ Investigate to see if the victim(s) of cyber-bullying could use some support from a school counselor or school-based mental health professional.

Survey Says

- ▶ 85% of 13-17 year olds have social media accounts. Even cyber-bullying that happens on these sites away from school can affect the school day and educational process

For More Information

Kentucky Center for School Safety



-  /kcssnews
-  /kyschoolsafety
-  (877) 805-4277
-  ask@kycss.org



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▶ **Contact the police immediately if known or suspected cyber-bullying involves acts such as:**

- ▶ Threats of violence
- ▶ Extortion
- ▶ Obscene or harassing phone calls or text messages
- ▶ Harassment, stalking, or hate crimes
- ▶ Child pornography

Surf Smart

▶ Explore the internet with skill and direction!

Share Less

▶ Keep your personal information private!

Think First

▶ Interact online appropriately!

Remember... long-term effects of cyber-bullying include:

- ▶ Poor academic performance
- ▶ Anxiety and loss of interest in socializing
- ▶ Aggression or violence toward others
- ▶ Depression and suicidal thoughts

Resource: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
<http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov>

Fact

▶ Cyber-bullying is a serious issue and the Internet's "Virtual Society" is not going away. We have to learn to live in it as responsible global cyber-citizens.

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