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.
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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!

For More Information
Kentucky Center for School Safety
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.

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