Suggestions for Educators

Educate your students, teachers, and other staff members about cyber bullying, its dangers, and what to do if someone is cyberbullied.

Be sure that your school’s anti-bullying rules and policies address cyber bullying.

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 cyberbullies 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.
- Talk with all students about the harms caused by cyber 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.

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

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/adult/indexAdult.asp?Area=cyberbullying

Kentucky Center for School Safety
www.kysafeschools.org