

# Cyberbullying

Online Social Aggression

## Guidelines for Educators

# Forms of Cyberbullying

- **Flaming:** Drastic comments made online.
- **Harassment:** Repeated sending of unwanted messages.
- **Denigration:** Making fun of someone via chat, message board or website.
- **Impersonation:** Assuming someone else's identity
- **Outing:** Sharing secrets about someone
- **Trickery:** Conning someone into revealing personal information
- **Exclusion:** Maliciously leaving someone out of an online group
- **Cyberstalking:** Continuous harassment or denigration online.

# Cyberthreats

- Statements found online
  - Make the author seem distressed or emotionally unstable
  - Give the impression that the author might possibly harm himself or others.

# Important Legal Issues for Educators

- Schools can monitor student use records and files in the same manner that they can search their locker.
- Personal equipment (i.e. cell phone, laptop does not fall under this jurisdiction).
- Schools can limit students' freedom of speech. Schools are learning institutions, not public forums.

# Important Legal Issues For Parents

- Legal action against a cyberbully is permissible under certain circumstances
  - If false information is published.
  - Disclosure of an offensive personal fact.
  - Intentional infliction of emotional stress.

Please note that these can be difficult to prove.

# Important Legal Issues

## Criminal Law

- A Cyberbully is subject to Criminal Law if:
  - Violent threats are made.
  - They coerce someone to do something they do not want to do.
  - Communication is obscene in nature.
  - Subject engages in harassment or stalking.
  - A hate crime is committed.
  - Creating or sending sexual images of teens.
  - Sexual exploitation.
  - Photographing someone in a normally private place (i.e. locker room).

# Guidelines for Dealing with Cyberbullying.

To combat Cyberbullying all schools should:

- Have a clear policy regarding the use of cell phones and other electronic equipment in school.
- Have a clear policy regarding the school's right to monitor any communications or websites visited.
- Implore parents to set clear expectations for their child's internet use.
- Teach students to ignore any messages sent to them that are offensive or inflammatory.
- Teach students to never give out personal information online.

# How to Deal with a Cyberbully

## After an online incident

- 1. Gather Evidence: Save all information available.
- 2. Find the creator: Use “Locker Rule” to search files.
- 3. Search for any additional material.

# Cyberbully Assessment

- The school can respond directly if the incident occurred through school network.
- Material should be evaluated to determine whether the bullying is a continuation of in-school activity or used to get back at someone.

# Cyberbully Prevention

- Look for signs: Mood change, loss of friends, negative attitude towards school.
- Encourage students to seek help for thoughts of depression.
- Try to eliminate in-school bullying.
- If Cyberbully committed a criminal act contact the proper authorities.

# Works Referenced

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