

# 2008 National Cyberethics, Cybersafety, Cybersecurity Baseline Study

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**Purpose:** To examine cyberethics, cybersafety and cybersecurity (C3) educational awareness policies, initiatives, curriculum, and practices currently taking place in the U.S. public and private K-12 educational settings.

**Methodology:** Quantitative and qualitative data was collected with a web-based survey of 1569 educators and 94 technology coordinators. Focus group and individual interviews were conducted with 219 educators, local education agency (LEA) technology coordinators/directors, and state technology directors and/or their representatives.

## Findings: How does the Educational System Inform Students about C3 Topics?

- Over half of educators' responses revealed they do not know how their schools inform students about protecting against, identifying, and responding to cyber crime.
- Almost 60% indicated they do not know how their school informs students how to identify signs that documents and emails contain viruses.
- About a third of the responses stated standards do not adequately address C3 content.
- Policies focus on restrictions.

## Findings: How Well Prepared do Educators Feel to Inform their Students about C3 Related Topics

- 75% of educators are not comfortable discussing cyberbullying.
- 18% are prepared to discuss detecting and avoiding malware.
- 31% are prepared to discuss digital media copyright laws.
- 21% - 30% of educators are prepared to advise students on cyberpredator and identity theft topics; to discuss avoiding cybercrime; to talk about social networking safety; to share requirements for safe passwords; to give strategies for protecting personal information; and suggest actions students can take should they receive unsolicited emails or instant messages.

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## Findings: What do the responses suggest about C3 Educator Professional Development?

- 90% of educators received less than 6 hours of C3 professional development in the past 6 months
- 24.4% of educators are very dissatisfied with C3 professional development; only 5% are very satisfied
- 69.2% of educators and 84% of technology coordinators prefer digital media to receive informal C3 training.

Research conducted by Educational Technology Policy Research and Outreach for the National Cyber Security Alliance [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org)

*This is a major issue in today's schools and it is important to develop programs so teachers know how to address these issues as they arise more and more frequently.*

--Northeast LEA Technology

Coordinator/Director

