STAYSAFEONLINE.org
National Cyber Security Alliance

National 2008 Cyberethics, Cybersafety, Cybesecurity Baseline Study Key Findings

The 2008 National Cyberethics, Cybersafety, Cybersecurity Baseline Study was conducted to explore educational awareness policies, initiatives, curriculum, and practices currently taking place in the U.S. public and private K-12 educational settings. Qualitative and quantitative data was collected from 1,569 public and private U.S. K-12 educators and 94 technology coordinators in an online survey. Additionally, 219 educators, local and state technology coordinators, and state technology directors participated in focus groups for the study.

Cyber Crime: Protecting, identifying and responding identity theft, predators, bullying, etc.

- Less than 5 % of educators said that this information is included in the state curriculum
- Only 8 % of educators surveyed said that this information in included in the Health/Safety Curriculum and just 20% said that Media Specialists provide this information.

Tools: Installing and updating firewalls, anti-virus, anti-spyware and anti-spam software on a computer.

- Just more than 2% of educators surveyed said that this is included in state curriculum.
- Only 22% percent of those surveyed said that this is covered by Media Specialists.

Behavior: Teaching students how to protect themselves on social networking sites and chat rooms

- Less than 3% of educators said that their state curriculum includes this information.
- Less than 9% responded that the health/safety curriculum includes this information and only 17% percent indicated that students received this information from Media Specialists.

More than 50% indicated they do not know how any of the above topics are taught. (Pg. 25, Table 3-3)

Technology Standards:

Educators said their school only included cyber security, cyber safety and cyber ethics topics in 8.6% ofstate curriculum, 12.7% of health/safety curriculum and 9.1% of one-day assemblies (pg. 23).

Technology coordinators that indicated the following topics are covered in their county/district/school:

Cyber Safety (Pg. 37, Table 3-10)		**Cyber Security** (Pg. 38, Table 3-11)		**Cyber Ethics** (Pg. 37, Table 3-9)	
Unwanted Communications	35%	Viruses or other malicious code	35%	Hacking	37%
Cyberstalking	21%	Scams	14%	Cyberbullying	33%
Online Predators	30%	Criminal Hackers	16%	Harassment	35%
Online Threats	29%	Spyware	22%	Online Gambling	19%
Pedophiles	13%	Malware	17%	Gaming	16%
Objectionable Content	46%	Phishing	19%	Plagiarism	54%
Hate Groups	18%	Identity Theft	18%	Stealing/pirating	45%

Only 39 % of technology coordinators said that their county/district/school uses an external Internet safety curriculum (Cyber Smart!, iKeepSafe, i-Safe, NetSmartz, etc.). (Pg. 30)

Teacher Preparedness:

- More than 60% don't feel comfortable discussing how to detect and minimize computer viruses.
- More than half (52%) don't understand how to ensure a website is secure.
- 75% don't feel comfortable discussing cyber-bullying and less than 32% are comfortable giving guidance on how to be safe in an online environment, including social networking and cyber predators.
- Only 22% are comfortable teaching about cyber bullying, identity theft and other types of cyber crime.
- Only 23% percent feel prepared to teach students how to protect their personal information online.

Figures 4-1 (Pg. 43), 4-2 (Pg. 46), and 4-3 (Pg. 50)

2008 National Cyberethics, Cybersafety, Cybersecurity Baseline Study, http://www.staysafeonline.org