

Cyberbullying: Awareness and Prevention for Educators



**CYBER
(Covert)**



**TRADITIONAL
(Overt)**



Cyberbullies have...

- **Anonymity**
- **Accessibility**
- **Audience**



Who Cyberbullies?


- T or F: Traditional schoolyard bullies are likely to become electronic bullies.
- TRUE: According to an article published in *Deviant Behavior*, traditional bullies are 2.5 times more likely to become electronic bullies.



Why do students cyberbully?

- T or F: The motivation for students' engaging in cyberbullying is the same as that which motivates those who engage in offline bullying.
- TRUE: Bullying gives the student a sense of power over his/her victim.




How would you  Like it?

The Symptoms of Victims...

- T or F: Victims of cyberbullying are at an increased risk for substance use and other school problems
- TRUE (Hinduja and Patchin)



- 
- T or F: Cyberbullying does not result in physical harm because it occurs completely online
 - FALSE: Cyberbullying may result in very serious physical consequences, possibly suicide. Victims of cyberbullying are 1.9 times more likely to have attempted suicide than those students who were not, according to Hinduja and Patchin in an article in the Archives of Suicide Research.

Try this one....

- T or F: Most victims of cyberbullying tell an adult about the experience.
- FALSE: Only about 40% of middle school victims told a parent; only about 30% told a school official. (Hinduja and Patchin,) In fact, according to cyber crime attorney, Parry Aftab, only 5% of all victims tell an adult. (nj.com)

Signs of Being Cyberbullied

- Feeling isolated and withdrawn after computer use
- Trouble sleeping or having nightmares
- Feeling depressed
- School anxieties/attendance issues
- Mood swings
- Other?



Encourage Students to...

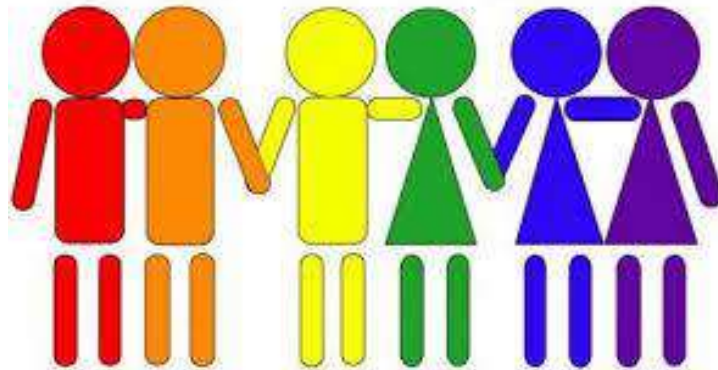
- “Think twice before you type” and “hit send”
- Don’t let a cyber bully “push their buttons”
- Understand that their actions *are* traceable by the authorities
- Understand what actions cyber bullying includes



Cyberbullying and sexual orientation

T or F: Nearly half (42 percent) of LGBT youth reported being harassed or bullied online

TRUE (GLSEN)...the number is three times more than non LGBT youth!



It's all about...

Digital Citizenship and Digital Consciousness



Unfortunately we focus on the
aftershock

A3466

- The law includes:
 - **Electronic communications**
 - Incidents off school grounds
 - Reporting and procedural requirements
 - Schools will be graded
 - Professional development on harassment, intimidation, bullying
 - An “anti-bullying” specialist in each building
 - A school safety team in each building
 - Week of respect established



S441

- School districts had 120 days to create electronic communication policies



2 important terms...

- **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:**
Communication transmitted by any electronic device...including social media and networking sites
- **PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Staff member's responsibilities including co-curricular, coaching, any other instructional/non-instructional responsibilities as assigned by BOE/administration

Social Media Policies

- Inappropriate electronic communications between a staff member and a student:
 - Communications of a sexual nature or sexually oriented humor
 - Communications involving the use, or encouraging the use of, alcohol, tobacco, or other controlled substances (or any illegal activities)
 - Communication regarding the staff member's or student's romantic relationships

Check your BOE policy!

Social Media Policies

- Communication which includes profanities or obscenities
- Communications that are harassing, intimidating, or bullying
- Communications requesting or trying to establish a personal relationship with a student beyond the staff member's **PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**
- Communication regarding a staff member's or student's confidential information

Check your BOE policy!

- E-mails must be sent through the school district's e-mail system
- Content must be limited to the staff member's PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES w/ the student
- Staff member shall not provide their personal e-mail address
- Staff member's e-mail account is subject to review by the school district
- Staff member shall have NO EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY.....

Check your BOE policy!



- Communications between a staff member and a student via a personal cell phone shall be prohibited
- However...a staff member may, with prior approval of the Principal, communicate w/ a student via cell phone if the need to communicate is directly related to the staff member's PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES such as.....field trip, co-curricular activity, etc.
- **Text messaging between a staff member and an individual student is prohibited**
 - Must be sent to every student in the class or on a team, in an activity, etc.

Check your BOE policy!

- A staff member is prohibited from communicating with any student through the staff member's social networking site
- A staff member shall not accept friend requests from any student (*or parent*)
- Staff member should permanently remove any students from friend list



Check your BOE policy!

Reporting responsibility

- If a student sends an improper electronic communication to a staff member, the staff member shall report the communication to the Principal by THE NEXT SCHOOL DAY!
(verbally...followed by an email)

Check your BOE policy!

