Cyber-Bullying: Suggestions for Educators

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

► Be sure that **your school's anti-bullying rules and policies** address cyber-bullying. (AUP and Student Code of Conduct, Board Policies)

► **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 cyber-bullies 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. 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.

Survey Says

► One in five (20.9%) tweens (9 to 12 years old) has been cyberbullied, cyberbullied others, or seen cyberbullying (*Patchin & Hinduja, 2020*).

For More Information
Kentucky Center for School Safety

/kcssnews
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(877) 805-4277

www.kycss.org

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► **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

Surf Smart
► **Explore the internet with skill and direction!**

Share Less
► **Keep your personal information private!**

Think First
► **Interact online appropriately!**

Remember… long-term effects of cyber-bullying include:

► Poor academic performance

► Anxiety and loss of interest in socializing

► Aggression or violence toward others

► Depression and suicidal thoughts

Resource: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov

Fact

► Cyber-bullying is a serious issue and the Internet's "Virtual Society" is not going away. We have to learn to live in it as responsible global cyber-citizens.

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