



KENTUCKY CENTER *for* SCHOOL SAFETY

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Suggestions for Educators

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

- ▶ Approximately 55% of students reported that they experienced cyberbullying at some point in their lifetimes ([Cyberbullying Research Center, 2024](#)).

For More Information

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When cyberbullying happens, it is important to document and report the behavior so it can be addressed.

► Steps to Take Immediately

- Don't respond to and don't forward cyberbullying messages.
- Keep evidence of cyberbullying. Record the dates, times, and descriptions of instances when cyberbullying has occurred. Save and print screenshots, emails, and text messages. Use this evidence to report cyberbullying to web and cell phone service providers and social media sites.
- Block the person who is cyberbullying.

► Report Cyberbullying to Law Enforcement

When cyberbullying involves these activities it is considered a crime and should be reported to law enforcement:

- Threats of violence
- Child pornography or sending sexually explicit messages or photos
- Taking a photo or video of someone in a place where he or she would expect privacy
- Stalking and hate crimes

Resource: <https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/how-to-report>

Surf Smart

- Explore the internet with skill and direction!

Share Less

- Keep your personal information private!

Think First

- Interact online appropriately!

- Cyberbullying is related to low self-esteem, suicidal ideation, anger, frustration, and a variety of other emotional and psychological problems ([Patchin, J. W. & Hinduja, S., 2024](#)).

Resource: <https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying>

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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