



# Escondido Union High School District

## District Service Center

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Steve Boyle, Superintendent

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From the Escondido Union High School District

Subject: Internet Safety

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Escondido Union High School District prides itself on providing a safe learning environment for our students, both in the classroom and in the digital realm. As it pertains to the Internet, the responsibility to monitor students' appropriate use of online tools rests on all of us – parents, teachers, and school administrators alike. We are asking for your help in ensuring safe social media and Internet practices in our schools and in your homes.

Across the nation, schools have seen an increase in negative student behavior as a result of messages written using electronic technology, including through social media apps. Many students believe, incorrectly, that they can anonymously bully, harass, threaten, and hurt other students and staff. They are wrong.

When students post threatening or inappropriate messages for purposes of harassment or bullying, they can and will face serious consequences at their school and may face arrest and prosecution by local law enforcement. Threats are not jokes, and the perpetrators will not remain anonymous.

Outside of our schools, there have been instances of adults posing as youths and gaining access to student chat rooms or social media sites. In some cases, these contacts have led to tragedy. Some unsuspecting students post enough personal information that predators are able to locate students' home or school addresses, thereby making students easy targets for predators.

The Escondido Union High School District has blocked the use of some social networking sites from our school computers. We will continue to block objectionable material as we deem appropriate. Parents should be aware of what their children are writing on the Internet and what others are posting in reply.

### HELPFUL TIPS AND RESOURCES

Talk to your child about the potential danger of the Internet. Ask if they have an account on any social media websites. If your child is using such a site with your permission, you may want to review his or her profile to ensure that no personal and identifiable information has been posted.

We ask that parents and guardians periodically review the content on your students' computers and cell phones, including apps and photos. Please talk with your kids about the need to guard their online reputations, because privacy is an illusion, and it is wrong to assume that you will remain anonymous in the digital realm.

Let your student know that if he or she notices any suspicious or threatening behavior online or in social media platforms, he/she should report it to an authority figure. It will be immediately investigated, and, if appropriate, reported to law enforcement.

We also encourage you to establish rules and guidelines to ensure the safety of your child while on the Internet. The Escondido Union High School District will continue to provide Internet security within our schools. It is important that parents also monitor Internet use at home. Together, we can continue to keep our students safe and supported in our community.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact Damon Blackman at 760-291-3235.

Sincerely,

Steve Boyle, Superintendent  
Escondido Union High School District