

INTERNET PROTECTION

The Columbia County School District, in compliance with the 2000 Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), provides an Internet screening system that blocks user access to a large number of inappropriate sites. The Columbia County School District Department of Technology acknowledges that every effort is made to prevent access to inappropriate materials via the Internet; however, if a user accesses such materials, he/she must immediately disconnect from the site and notify a teacher or supervisor, and Technology personnel must be notified immediately as well. Columbia County School District does not assign student electronic mail addresses and restricts unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors. Teachers and staff are expected to monitor all Internet activity of students.

Annually, school personnel shall provide for students age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others on social networking sites and in chat rooms; behaviors that may constitute cyber bullying; and proper responses when subjected to cyber bullying. Schools should use the guide below in determining how best to deliver this instruction so that students are able to "surf safely."

Topics for Discussion May Include the Following:

Grades K, 1 & 2 – How to be safe online; age-appropriate strategies for dealing with pop-ups and navigation to unwanted/inappropriate websites; talking to strangers online, including interaction with strangers during online gaming; and appropriate online behavior and netiquette.

Grades 3 & 4 – Communicating online with proper netiquette; cyber bullying; personal cyber safety; age-appropriate strategies for dealing with pop-ups and navigation to unwanted and inappropriate websites; responding to strangers online, including interaction with strangers during online gaming; protecting personal information; choosing safe usernames and passwords; and text messaging and e-mailing safely.

Grade 5 – Safety tips for designing personal websites (social media like Facebook, etc.); strategies for handling cyber bullying; personal cyber safety, choosing safe usernames and passwords; responding to strangers online, including interaction with strangers during online gaming; protecting personal information; risks of providing too much information in online profiles and forms; navigating the web safely; and text messaging and e-mailing safely.

Grades 6 – Personal cyber safety; choosing safe usernames and passwords; protecting personal information; risks of providing too much information; safety tips for designing personal websites (Facebook, etc.); strategies for handling cyber bullying; online profiles and forms; online predators and how they work to gain confidence; responding appropriately to strangers on the internet; navigating the web safely; and text messaging safely.

Grades 7 & 8 – Positive and negative aspects of social networking sites; designing safe websites; cyber bullying and stalking; personal cyber safety; safe screen names and passwords; stranger danger online; safety rules for online postings; online predators and how they work to gain confidence; risky online behaviors; keeping personal information private; and safe text messaging.

Grades 9 – 12 – Personal cyber safety; appropriate online behavior; online shopping risks; online gambling; identity theft and keeping your identity safe; internet and cell phone bullying and harassment; privacy and the internet; pornography on the web; your digital footprint; strategies for safe online relationships; and online predators and how they work to gain confidence.

www.netismartz.org is just one of many educational sites that provide materials for internet safety curriculum by grade. School personnel have the discretion to provide additional training or to implement other curricula, provided that the training or curricula meet the requirements of CIPA, as may be amended from time to time. The suggested topics for discussion and proposed curricula in this procedure are intended as a guideline and in no way replace or diminish the professional judgment and discretion of the administrators or school personnel implementing this procedure.

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Columbia County Board of Education