KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE ONLINE

The need for educators to help prevent bullying, drug use, school violence, teen depression and abusive domestic situations has never been greater. Unfortunately–and way too often–headlines are made too close to home.

The good news is that there are ways to help assure students stay safe, while still allowing them to communicate, collaborate and learn online within a safe, filtered and controlled environment.

WHAT *YOUR* STUDENTS ARE DOING

95% Teenagers between the ages of 12-17 online.

Most common online activities among teens:

- **62%** Visit a social network
- **43%** Update status or check friend's status
- **36%** Send an instant message
- **34%** Listen to downloaded music
- **32%** Send an email
- **15%** Do research for school or work

74% About three out of every four teens say they access the Internet on mobile phones.

52% More than one out of every two teens has been a victim of cyberbullying...

>1 in 5 ...but less than one out of every five cyberbullying incidents is reported to law enforcement.

37% Students report being bullied at school.

50% 12th grade girls spend at least 10 hours per week texting on their cell phones.

22% Teens between the ages of 14-17 have been involved in sending nudetext messages (sexting).

15% Teenagers have sent nude photos to someone they never met.

A CLOSER LOOK

Here's a breakdown of threats to students identified during the first semester of the 2013-14 school year from email, text messages, discussion boards, email attachments, computer files and more.

33% Violence/Abuse (Self)
Examples: Self-harm, suicide, dangerous behavior.

20% Violence/Rape/Abuse (Others)
Examples: Bullying, sexual abuse, fighting.

19% Nudity/Sexual Content
Examples: Sexting, sexual encounters, pornography.

14% Inappropriate Content
Examples: Students skipping class, cheating, links to inappropriate websites.

14% Alcohol/Smoking/Drug Use
Examples: Drug sales, plans for underage drinking at a party, drug possession.

HOW TO HANDLE PORNOGRAPHIC CONTENT

#1 Do not forward, download, copy, delete or share.

#2 Determine if the person in possession of the file has shared it with others.

#3 Minimize the number of devices involved and locations of the file.

#4 Contact local law enforcement if there is concern about distribution legality.

#5 If a document or conversation must be saved for records, do not include images.

AFTER THE FINAL BELL

When the school day ends, students still have access to social media, email, text messaging and more. Besides understanding what students are doing both inside and outside the classroom, schools can keep their buildings and students safe by taking these steps.

- Help students understand what information should be private.
- Talk to students about cyber bullying.
- Educate students about the threats of online predators.
- Encourage students to report concerns to authorities.
- Implement a safe learning solution that will filter and monitor online communication.

gaggle **SAFE, ONLINE TEACHING & LEARNING**

www.gaggle.net
@Gaggle_K12

Sources: BullyingStatistics.org | DoSomething.org | GuardChild.com
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children | Pew Research Center
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
US Department of Health & Human Services