

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

TIPS FOR EDUCATORS & EDUCATIONAL POLICY MAKERS

Electronic Aggression: Any type of harassment or bullying (teasing, telling lies, making fun of someone, making rude or mean comments, spreading rumors, or making threatening or aggressive comments) that occurs through email, a chat room, instant messaging, a website (including blogs), or text messaging.

- **Review your Bullying prevention policies.** Determine if they need to be modified to reflect “electronic aggression”.
- **Work collaboratively to develop policies.** Work with District counsel to develop policies that protect the rights of all students and also meet the needs district and those it serves.
- **Explore current programs to prevent bullying and youth violence.** Explore many of the evidence-based programs for the prevention of bullying and youth violence that are currently in the field
- **Offer training on electronic aggression for educators and administrators**
- **Talk to teens.** The fascination and skills of young people with electronic media should not be ignored: explore with adolescents how electronic media can be used as tools to prevent electronic aggression .
- **Work with IT and support staff.** Create the infrastructure and support necessary for classroom teachers to work with IT staff to keep abreast of issues affecting young people and develop strategies to minimize risk.
- **Create a positive school atmosphere.** Students who feel connected to their school, who think their teachers care about them and are fair, and who think the school rules are clear and fair, are less likely to perpetrate any type of violence or aggression, including electronic aggression
- **Have a plan in place** for what should happen if an incident is brought to the attention of school officials.
- Be proactive!

For more information on electronic aggression:

<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ea-brief-a.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ea-tipsheet-a.pdf>

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it/>

