EMPLOYEE & STUDENT
MISUSE OF TECHNOLOGY

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Misuse by Students

● Off-campus cyberbullying

● Sexting
New ways to Cyberbully

Response Checklist
 Immediate threat of harm?
 Mandatory reporting duty?
 Does a district policy or procedure apply?
 Investigate
 Provide support to involved students

Cyberbullying: Threats
 Girl 1: homicidal? Does that mean you wanna kill people? Cos if so, i do.
 Girl 2: iim gonna start a hit list.
 Girl 3: I wanna kill people with a knife. But its easier to find out who did it... so i gotta get a gun:
 Girl 2: im gonna use my pink boxcutter. But put paper towel around thee handle, so they cant take my finger prints.
 Girl 1: Its easier to find out who did it with a gun. And yes, homicidal means you wanna kill people.

The girls later talked about using a butcher knife, filling a tub with acid to dissolve a body or lighting someone on fire, court records state.
Cyberbullying: Threats

- Contact law enforcement
- Conduct school investigation in conjunction with law enforcement
- Notify parent of any student and/or teacher threatened within 12 hours of discovering threat. ORS 339.327
- Determine if violation of school policy occurred.
- Impose appropriate discipline.

Twitter Basics

- **Mention**: Once you’ve signed up and chosen a Twitter username, you and others can mention an account in your Tweets by preceding it with the @ symbol, eg: “Glad your shipment arrived @janesmith!”
- **Retweet**: When you see a Tweet by another user that you want to share, click Retweet below it to forward it to your followers instantly.
- **Hashtag**: Users often prepend # to words in their Tweets to categorize them for others eg: “Check out our new products for the Fall http://t.co/link2 #fallsale” Think of hashtags as the theme of your Tweet. Users can then click on a hashtag to see other similarly-themed tweets and find yours in search.

Twitter in School News

- Herndon, Virginia - Herndon High School (2223 students)
- Chris Shoemaker - Senior 18 y/o
- Graduation prank to put baby oil in hallways
- Student Protest & Revolt - take to Twitter with #LetTheBoysWalk2012
- Students suspended, not allowed to walk, appealed and lost
Cyberbullying: Off-campus

Did speech occur on or off campus?

If imposing discipline for off-campus speech, must meet one of these:
- Nexus to school
- Material or substantial disruption
- Direct or immediate threat of danger to the safety of others

Twitter in School News

Lawrenceville, GA - Gwinnett County High School

Ajuan Hearn - Sophomore - 16 years old

Tweeted picture sent to Ajuan on his own Facebook

"This (expletive). Here you obviously want attention, everyone from Mountain View, see if you can identify this girl."

School suspended him for violation of bullying policy
Cyberbullying: Off Campus

- Comply with cyberbullying policy JFCF:
  - Complete prompt investigation
  - Document findings, especially substantial disruption to school environment
    - See www.cyberbullying.us for report form
  - Discipline if warranted
  - Notify complainant of results of investigation

Removing Facebook Content

- Student makes fake “Principal” page and posts obscene material.
- How do you request that Facebook remove this fake page?
  - Facebook has very limited personnel dedicated to reviewing these requests.
  - Best way is to hit “Report Abuse” button on bottom of every profile page, and report the profile for every available option.

Sexting

- Sexting, v: (a combination of sex and texting) is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones.
Sexting Response

- Does the conduct violate policy? Law?
- Contact law enforcement if nude pictures/videos (mandatory reporting)
  - Seal in envelope
  - Sign and date on envelope closure
  - Lock in secure place until law enforcement arrives

Sexting Investigation

- If school (not law enforcement investigation)
  - What is the phone number, email, etc. involved?
  - Who knows about it? Who has seen it?
  - Nail down initial statements
  - Get help from tech department to preserve records
  - Contact parents of involved students

When is it ok to search a student’s cell phone?

- Reasonable suspicion of violation of school policy or law
  - Credible tip from another student
- Search limited in scope
  - Don’t search pictures if you’re looking for a text message related to a drug deal
  - Don’t search if phone only confiscated because student had it out in class
- Seeing something in plain view ≠ search
Preventing Student Misuse

- Educate parents, staff, teachers on dangers of misuse of technology
  - Letters home, educational forum
- Clear policy uniformly enforced & communicated to students & parents
  - Prohibit possession of nude or provocative pictures on any device on school grounds
- Impose consequences equally

Employee Technology Misuse

- Blogging or Facebook posts by school employee
- Excessive internet use during school time

Employee Facebook Posts
Employee Facebook Posts

- 7 year old came to school with jolly ranchers tied to braids.
- Teacher took pictures of the student: side shot and back of head with the comment: “And y’all thought I was joking.”
- Friend of mother took screen shots of pictures and sent to mother.

Employee Facebook Posts

- Conduct investigation with help of technology department
- Do not regularly review staff/student Facebook pages
- Remember 1st Amendment Issues
- TSPC report
- Directive or discipline

Facebook & Staff

Never too early to drink. Starting the weekend off right. — @ Portland International Airport
Facebook & Staff

TSPC Report

- Gross Neglect of Duty:
  - Knowing and substantial unauthorized use of employment time or school resources for private purposes;
  - Any sexual conduct with a student;
  - Sexual harassment;
  - Knowing and unauthorized use of school computer equipment to receive, store, produce or send sexually explicit materials;

Employee-Student Facebook

- http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/44118654/ns/today-today_tech/t/should-teachers-be-facebook-friends-students/#.UJf_OYYqfK0
Employee- Student Sexual Conduct

- Conduct investigation with help of technology department.
- Comply with requirements of sexual conduct law (ORS 339.370-339.400)
- Contact law enforcement, if necessary
- TSPC report, if warranted
- Directive or discipline, if warranted.

Excessive Internet Use

- Students complain teacher on computer or cell phone “all the time.”
  - Use software to take repeated screenshots of teacher’s computer
  - Obtain list of websites visited from IT department
  - Issue directive regarding computer/phone use

Questions?

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