



RECOMMENDATION FROM THE
INTERNET SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Section 22.1-24.1 of the Code of Virginia provides that the Superintendent of Public Instruction “shall establish and appoint members of the **Internet Safety Advisory Council** (the Council) for the purpose of advancing the goal of safe use of media and technology by students and teachers in public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth.” The statute sets out the membership of the Council. This section of Code was added by Chapter 776 during the 2022 General Assembly. Chapter 111 (2023 Acts of Assembly) amended this section to add that the Council may collaborate with law-enforcement agencies, criminal justice agencies, and other nongovernmental organizations with expertise in child online safety issues and human trafficking prevention. **The statute is in effect until July 1, 2024.**

The duties of the Council include:

- **Developing recommendations to the Board of Education for adoption, a model policy** for local school boards that would enable them to better support the Internet safety of all students and teachers;
- Developing recommendations to the Board of Education for adoption, model instructional practices for and **instructional content** on the safe use of media and technology by students and teachers; and
- Designing and **posting on the Department's website** a page with links to successful instructional practices, curricula, and other teacher resources.

THE COUNCIL

Robbi Moose: Hungry Creek Middle School, Administrator

Spencer Phillips: Douglas S Freeman High School, Student

Mychael Willon: Williamsburg, Parent; President of the Virginia Middle School Association, Chair of Virginia's Special Education Advisory Committee

Emily Heller: Fredericksburg City Schools, ITRT; VSTE, Chair

Mary R. Martin-Bodrick: Prince William County, mathematics educator

Retired Sheriff Michael J Brown: Bedford County

Kelly Passek: Montgomery County Schools, librarian; VAASL President

Tom Landon: Blue Ridge PBS, Director of Instructional Innovation

Carrie Rogers-Whitehead: Digital Respons-Ability, Founder & CEO

Makayla Burnett: Department of Criminal Justice Services, State Trafficking Response Coordinator

Calypso Gilstrap: Virginia Department of Education, Associate Director of the Office of Educational Technology and Classroom Innovation

Julia Fallon: SETDA, Executive Director,

The Council met on September 18th, 2023, October 16th, 2023, November 20th, 2023, and January 8th, 2024.

THE TIMELINE

September 2023

- Advisors shared background and expertise
- Review of the code, set expectations
- Presentation on the background of Virginia's Internet Safety initiatives

October 2023

- Advisors shared curated resources related to the issues addressed in the statute.
- The council created a bibliography of the curated resources

November 2023

- Advisors share curated resources
- The council created a selection criteria for resources
- Advisors discussed what guidance they would like to see in the model policy

January 2024

- Advisors shared exemplars of policies and other frameworks
- Open discussion of the draft language for the model policy concerning internet safety

February – March 2024

- VDOE's worked to
 - Develop the model policy
 - Select resources and instructional models
 - Build the hub

MODEL POLICY CONCERNING INTERNET SAFETY

Purpose: To emphasize the essential role of technologies in the learning experiences of students, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is committed to helping school boards develop and implement internet safety policies and programs. **Safeguarding students remains the utmost priority in K-12 education.** Due to the ever-changing nature of internet technologies, it is important for all members of the educational community to actively address this imperative. **In the learning environment, leaders allow for safe access to the internet, teachers design safe lessons, and students safely use technology.**

Guiding Principles

- A. In an environment of constrained resources, school leaders leverage **security investments** to focus on the most impactful steps. Schools are responsible for protecting student privacy on school devices and networks by implementing appropriate security measures.
- B. Education is essential in supporting the safety of children. Educators **integrate digital wellness skills into the core curriculum teaching** students to help students navigate modern technology in a healthy and productive manner including the most common online threats and ways to respond.
- C. **Internet safety training** at school will impact student behavior on the personal devices for accessing the internet, including mobile phones.
- D. **Law enforcement** focus on collaboration and information sharing with local school divisions.
- E. Local school boards invest in building teacher capacity through systematic, high quality **professional learning opportunities**.
- F. While no comprehensive list exists to cover all situations, appropriate **safe, legal, and ethical online behavior** should include the items listed in the model policy.

MODEL POLICY CONCERNING INTERNET SAFETY



Purpose



Definitions



Access to
Educational
Technology



Use to
Educational
Technology



Instructional
Design

MODEL INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES



Internet Safety Resources

To emphasize the essential role of technologies in the learning experiences of students, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is committed to helping school boards develop and implement internet safety policies and programs. Safeguarding students remains the utmost priority, even though the task may seem formidable. Leaders must actively address this imperative. The dynamic evolution of the internet underscores the significance of this responsibility for all community members.

 



- i. The risks of transmitting personal information on the internet and the importance of **privacy protection**.
- ii. The enforcement of **copyright laws** on written materials, photographs, music, and videos posted or shared online.
- iii. The importance of establishing open **communication with responsible adults** about any online communications or activities.
- iv. How **to recognize, avoid, and report** suspicious, potentially dangerous, or illegal online communications or activities, including (a) potential solicitation by sexual predators, (b) unsolicited or deceptive communications, and (c) harassment and cyberbullying.
- v. Safe and responsible use of **social networking** websites, including the advantages of social media use, as well as the potential harms including addiction, publication of misinformation, negative effects on mental health, and the permanent nature of content created on social media.

Resources



Proper Recognition, Avoidance, and Reporting Procedures

33 Resources



Copyright and Sharing

37 Resources



Communi



Privacy a



CyberTipline



[View Resource](#)

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Description

Overview: Making a report of child exploitation is secure and easy. The form can be completed in just a few minutes, and you decide if you want to share your contact information. In fact, many of the fields are optional so what information you provide, is up to you.

Subject: Cross-Curricular

Level: Lower Primary, Upper Primary, Middle School, High School

Grades: Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8, Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

VDOE Contact

Information
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