

What does the *Charlotte Public Schools Lab/Classroom – Computers/Equipment/Internet Use Policy* say?

- I will use computers and equipment with respect.
- I will follow the rules about using the Internet.
- I will not give out any personal information about others or myself on the Internet.

What does the *Charlotte Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy* say?

- Promptly notify a school official about any electronic message you receive that is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Users shall not use District electronic information technologies to draft, send, or receive inappropriate materials or to engage in behavior which violates District policy, including the student code of conduct.
- Inappropriate material includes but is not limited to materials that are harmful or inappropriate to minors, obscene, pornographic, profane, vulgar, harassing, threatening, defamatory, or otherwise prohibited by law. The determination of a materials' "appropriateness" is based on both the materials' content and intended use.

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## Cyberbullying: A Guide

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**Charlotte Public Schools**

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## ABOUT CYBERBULLYING:

Students have fully embraced the Internet and other mobile communication technologies, such as cell phones and PDA's for communicating with friends, making new friends, seeking information, and creating their own web sites and blogs (interactive web journals). While most Internet use is fun and beneficial, there are increasing problems of students using the Internet or other mobile devices to send or post harmful or cruel text **OR** images to bully and harass others.

### EXAMPLES:

1. Sending cruel, vicious, and sometimes threatening messages to others.
2. Creating web sites that have stories, cartoons, pictures, and jokes ridiculing others.
3. Posting pictures of classmates online and asking students to rate them, with questions such as "Who is the biggest \_\_\_\_\_ (add a derogatory term.)?"
4. Breaking into an e-mail account and sending vicious or embarrassing material to others.
5. Taking a picture of a person in the locker room using a digital phone camera **AND** sending that picture to others.

## CYBERBULLYING IS:

Sending or posting harmful or cruel text or images using the Internet or other digital communication devices. The various ways in which cyberbullying may occur include the following.

- 1) **Flaming** – Sending angry, rude, vulgar messages directed at a person or persons privately or to an online group.
- 2) **Harassment** – Repeatedly sending a person offensive messages.
- 3) **Cyberstalking** – Harassment that includes threats of harm or is highly intimidating.
- 4) **Denigration (put-downs)** – Sending or posting harmful, untrue, or cruel statements about a person to others.
- 5) **Masquerade** – Pretending to be someone else and sending or posting materials that makes that person look bad or places that person in potential danger.
- 6) **Outing and Trickery** – Sending or posting materials about a person that contains sensitive, private, or embarrassing information, including forwarding private messages or images. Engaging in tricks to solicit embarrassing information that is then made public.
- 7) **Exclusion** – Actions that specifically and intentionally exclude a person from an online group or "buddies" list.

## IF YOU SUSPECT CYBERBULLYING:

Frequently, the only people who know that a student is being victimized are other students. Students who are being victimized often do not tell adults because they are too emotionally traumatized, they think it is their fault, or they fear even greater retribution if they tell. Students who report that such cyberbullying is occurring may literally be saving the life of another student.

One of the most important steps to be taken to combat cyberbullying will be empowering student bystanders-who-are-part-of-the-problem to become student bystanders-who-are-part-of-the-solution.

Cyberbullying is already impacting each and every school community. The situation is likely to get worse, before it gets better. Cyberbullying can lead to significant emotional harm of students, which could result in violence.

Encourage students to tell an adult. A parent, teacher, guidance counselor, or principal can help.

All information provided in this brochure was obtained from: Nancy Willard, M.S., J.D., Director of the Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use at:  
<http://cyberbully.org/>