

RESOLUTION ON THE DANGERS OF INAPPROPRIATE  
USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Whereas the Illinois PTA holds a continuing position regarding the prevention of bullying;

Whereas Item 7a of the Illinois PTA Legislation Platform provides support for the protection, health and welfare of children and youth;

Whereas cyber bullying is willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices;

Whereas certain characteristics inherent in new technologies increase the likelihood that they will be exploited to cause harm to others; e.g.

- electronic bullies can remain “virtually” anonymous
- internet venues can make it very difficult for adolescents to determine the identity of aggressors
- individuals can hide behind some measure of anonymity when using electronic devices to bully another individual
- cyber bullies do not have to deal with the immediate emotional, psychological or physical effects of face-to-face bullying on their victims
- hurtful or humiliating content can be sent to a large number of people in a short period of time;

Whereas in a cyber safety survey conducted by the Illinois Attorney General, the first of its kind to focus exclusively on youth from all across ***Illinois in grades 3 to 12***,

- 24.34% reported receiving an inappropriate picture of someone over a cell phone or computer; this statistic rises to 40.93% in grades 7 – 12.
- 18.55% reported having been threatened by someone online or by text
- 21.20% reported ever feeling uncomfortable with a conversation they have had with someone online or by text
- 25.15% reported having said something inappropriate to someone online or by text
- 24.53% reported having ever been approached by a stranger online or by text

Resolved that the Illinois PTA will disseminate to its constituent associations up-to-date information regarding evolving trends in the dangers inherent with inappropriate use of electronic communications by children and youth;

Resolved that the Illinois PTA will work with other like-minded organizations to raise awareness of the dangers inherent in inappropriate use of electronic communications; and

Resolved that the Illinois PTA will seek to raise awareness of legislation regarding electronic communications and its specific implications regarding consequences and affect on future opportunities for children and youth and support legislation which aligns with our platform and positions in protecting children and youth.

2010 Adopted Resolution