Gwinnett County Public Schools is committed to providing information related to student technology use in a manner that is clear, concise, organized, accessible, and current. To that end, GCPS has provided articles and handouts on its web site.

The following resource is provided for information only and is NOT an official policy or procedure of Gwinnett County Public Schools. This resource may be used by schools and the school communities to share information and ideas around student technology use.

Should a conflict between the information on this site and the existing policy, regulation or rule occur, then the official or approved policy, rule or regulation supersedes the resources in this document.
Recognizing Cyberbullying

Bullying is widespread and perhaps the most underreported safety problem on American school campuses. Contrary to popular belief, bullying occurs more often at school and in the victim’s digital environment. Once thought of as simply a rite of passage or relatively harmless behavior that helps build young people’s character, bullying is now known to have long-lasting harmful effects, for both the victim and the bully.

In some ways, cyberbullying is like traditional bullying. But there are many new and different aspects.

- Nasty comments and embarrassing photos can spread quickly and widely online and through mobile devices.
- Online anonymity makes it easier for kids to be mean and for other kids to add to the problem.
- Like the online world, cyberbullying is 24/7 – it may start from a home computer, but it expands into the school environment and everywhere in between.
- Because it’s online and mobile, it’s much harder for parents and teachers to detect.

I. How can I tell if my student is being Cyberbullied?

If a teacher suspects a student is being cyber bullied, he or she should advise the student to ask his or her parents or guardians to help. The teacher can also show the student how to save any evidence of the cyber bullying and report it by using a copy of the printed online communications as evidence. The student can bring the evidence to the teacher, a school counselor, or an administrator. If there is no evidence, the student should still report the cyber bullying and include a description of what is taking place so that a counselor or administrator can investigate and speak with the parties involved.

If a child is being harassed or bullied online, he or she may:

- Be reluctant to use the computer or electronic device
- Avoid discussion about what they are doing on the computer, or other electronic device
- Look or appear nervous, anxious or jumpy when receiving an email, IM or text message
- Display unusual anger, sadness, and depression after using the computer or electronic device
- Discuss revenge
- Exit or click out of whatever they are doing, if a person walks by
- Unexpectedly quits using the computer or electronic device
- Be having trouble sleeping or have other sleeping disturbances
- Show a decline in school homework or grades
- Have an unusual interest in self-harm or in suicide
- Exhibit unusual mood swings
- Not feel well, headaches, upset stomach
- Become reclusive, anti-social and/or is losing friends
- Be unusually withdrawn or depressed
- Not want to be involved in school activities

Research also says that chances are that your child will not tell you he is harassed online. As our children get older studies also show the likelihood declines even more. One big reason: our kids say we did not listen or believe them when they did come and tell us. So get educated.
## II. Resources:

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<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
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<td>Kidscape - Cyber Bullying</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kidscape.org.uk/childrenteens/cyberbullying.shtml">http://www.kidscape.org.uk/childrenteens/cyberbullying.shtml</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyber Bullying - Canadian</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cyberbullying.ca/info.html">www.cyberbullying.ca/info.html</a></td>
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<td>Cyberbullying On The Internet</td>
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<td>Challenging Cyber Bullying</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bewebaware.ca/english/CyberBullying.aspx">www.bewebaware.ca/english/CyberBullying.aspx</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet Super Hero - Cyberbullying, Flaming, Cyberstalking</td>
<td><a href="http://internetsuperheroes.org/cyberbullying">http://internetsuperheroes.org/cyberbullying</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobilizing Educators, Parents, Students, and Others to Combat Online bullying</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cyberbully.org/cyberbully/">http://www.cyberbully.org/cyberbully/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>NetSmartz</td>
<td><a href="http://www.netsmartz.org">http://www.netsmartz.org</a></td>
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<td>Stay Safe Online</td>
<td><a href="http://www.staysafeonline.org/">http://www.staysafeonline.org/</a></td>
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