

NCSA's Cyber Security, Safety and Ethics Education Roundtable Cyber Awareness Campaign

The National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and its supporting partners, including the Cyber Security Industry Alliance (CSIA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are hosting a roundtable series on cyber security, ethics, and safety education. The first roundtable will take place on December 6, 2005 in Washington, D.C.

Cyber Awareness Background

Teaching children and young adults how to use the Internet is critical in preparing them for the 21st Century Workforce. Young adults with well-developed Internet and computer skills are more likely to obtain better jobs, and can easily use their Internet skills to search, apply for, and obtain jobs. The appropriate use of the Internet and technology in the classroom and at home can help students achieve better grades and increase scores on standardized tests. The benefits of exposing children to the Internet at an early age and throughout their K-12 schooling are so vast that even recent legislation – The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001-- calls for every student to be “technologically literate” by the end of 8th grade.

Issue

Although the Internet provides great educational and economic benefits, there are risks children face while online. These risks could potentially become a major reason for educators and parents to avoid using the Internet in classrooms or at home. This would do our children a great disservice and decrease their opportunities to succeed in the future. We must provide educators and parents with tools and resources to help them put the risks in perspective and provide resources to address them, so educators and parents feel better equipped in guiding children toward the educational opportunities the Internet provides and away from the risks.

Goal

In order to lay the groundwork to develop national commitment and coordinated action agenda to teach cyber skills to young people, NCSA must create a working relationship with all key stakeholders. By working together, we can: 1) Develop a national cyber awareness campaign to make cyber security, safety and ethics curriculum and other teaching tools that are easy to access and available to all educators; and, 2) Create a culture of common sense cyber security, safety and ethics that will enhance the education and economic opportunities the Internet provides our youth.

Working together, we can lay the foundation in developing a national cyber awareness campaign to bring the necessary cyber awareness tools and messages to all key stakeholders.

The focus of each roundtable includes:

Part I: Awareness Initiatives to Promote Cyber Security, Safety and Ethics

Educators and parents may not understand the need for a cyber security, safety and ethics curriculum in the classroom. As a result, we need to develop a communications and awareness strategy that informs educators, administrators and parents on the need for cyber security, safety and ethics courses in schools. During the education roundtable, we seek to develop a communications plan by exploring three key areas:

- **Craft positive cyber security messages for educators.** Educators and parents may be reluctant to adopt the Internet in the classroom and at home, and we should not add to their hesitancy by scaring them with negative cyber security messages. The NCSA seeks to find ways to develop a national campaign that uses positive messages, so educators and parents embrace online teaching and the need for cyber security, safety and ethics education.
- **Vet awareness messages with educators for their feedback.** Develop a focus group to explore and examine NCSA material. Find organizations and educators who would be willing to comment on the awareness materials.
- **Develop a list of stakeholders that does not just include educators.** We would like to include non-education related groups that can send our message to the public and create a communications pipeline to children, like Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, law enforcement officials, and InfraGuard. The NCSA needs help identifying these stakeholders and ways to branch out and invite these organizations to join our efforts.

Part II: Provide Educators with Tools and Resources Easily Incorporated in Classrooms

Educators are faced with a number of requirements and curriculum they must teach their students, which limits their time and ability to incorporate new curriculum in their class. At the same time, there may be non-traditional education communities that require curriculum tailored to their needs, such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. During the education roundtable, we seek to develop mechanisms and education tools by exploring four key areas:

- **Draft curriculum in a way that suits educators schedules and lesson plans.** Educators do not always have the luxury to add cyber security curriculum to their lesson plans. They have to comply with different standards and benchmarks, requiring them to get through mandatory lessons. However, there are times when educators may embrace “ready to read and use” lessons, for example, in the instance of a substitute teacher in the classroom. In addition, the Boy Scouts have ways to educate children that use different types of curriculum. The NCSA aims to explore and develop the widest possible curriculum options for all educators.
- **Find ways to translate materials into Spanish and Arabic.** It is important that cyber security, safety and ethics materials are translated into other languages so parts of the American population are not left behind. The NCSA seeks to find a way to

translate material so it could be access by non-English speaking children and young adults.

- **Vet material and website with educators for their feedback.** Develop a focus group to explore and examine NCSA material. Find educators nationwide who would be willing to comment on the website and materials via email.
- **Use the teaching standards process as a way to incorporate cyber security curriculum in schools.** Various groups are in the process of drafting standards for incorporating online curriculum in the classroom. The NCSA should work with the various standards bodies to incorporate cyber security, safety and ethics lessons in the standards for developing online schooling.
- **Find ways to communicate with the education community on how to access and obtain education material.** We need to develop a communication pipeline to educators that gives them up to date information on the education tools available and provides them with a way they can easily access cyber security, safety and ethics material.

Part III. Develop Professional and Policy Tools for Administrators and Educators

There are roadblocks that educators and administrators face when incorporating online education in the classrooms as a result of cyber security, safety and ethics issues. At the same time, some educators may want professional training before they implement a curriculum in the classroom. During the roundtable, we seek to address these issues and others identified by exploring the following three areas:

- **Provide professional development materials to educators.** Educators will be more apt to use cyber security content and lessons if they are trained to use it and see it as an opportunity to add to their professional development. The NCSA seeks to collect professional development tools and material and make it available to educators.
- **Provide administrators and educators with template acceptable use policies.** A stumbling block to incorporate online education and Internet usage in schools is having children and young adults signing acceptable use policies and pledges. The NCSA seeks to provide a number of templates from different identified organizations and schools with pledges and acceptable use policies that educators and administrators could easily incorporate in their schools.