

Summary of K-12 Cyber Security Education Roundtable Discussion  
**Part I: Awareness Initiatives to Promote Cyber Security, Safety and Ethics**  
December 6, 2005

The first Education Roundtable focused on answering questions to help define what will be required in developing a communications plan to launch a national campaign for promoting Cyber Security, Safety, and Ethics to the K-12 community. Reflected below are the responses to those questions.

**1. Why should educators and parents care about cyber security, safety, and ethics?**

- Understand Social Behavior Development.
  - *Parents need to understand the overall consequence of what their children are doing online.* If we don't alert parents/educators, they are not motivated. They assume its safe by ignorance. You literally have to show them what the risks are, and get their attention.
  - *What one person does will affect what happens to someone else they don't know.* Students go online without having the maturity to know/realize the consequences of their actions. Interconnectedness- It's important for parents and educators to know we're all connected on the Internet. The notion that we're part of a larger community and what you do affects that community.
  - *Focus on the Internet as a utility – life driving, brings along necessary precautions.* The changing culture of today is that the Internet is a part of everyday life and students need to learn etiquette (appropriate manners) and how to safely and responsibly communicate with people while on the Internet. There needs to be core knowledge for parents and educators.
  - *Standard Rules of Behavior.* Concerns in cyberspace are similar to the physical world. It is about having standard rules of behavior in the real world and not hiding behind the mask of the technology, and about being a decent and smart person when you're online.
- Professional Development. Think about preparing them for the workforce. Computers and the Internet are used everyday in the workforce.
- Privacy Issues. (Webcams, etc.) Need to relate the impact of loss of privacy to parents/educators.

Considerations for Message Development

- Keep the message simple.
- Different messages for targeting the different audiences.
- Develop positive messages that encourage the use of the Internet.
- Include preventative measures in the message.

- Make correlations  
Driving. Students need to learn rules of driving and appropriate behavior to avoid consequences. Same concept applies to being online.  
Patriotic. If you notice suspicious behavior, contact the police. We as a society understand that and it is important to do so. Internet safety is as important as well.

#### Ideas for Messages

- Prepare Students for the Workforce. The positive steps to avoid consequences.
- Be Responsible. Do Your Duty.
- Protect Your Neighbor.

## **2. What is currently being done to support educators/parents as they convey C3 information and skills in the classroom, after-school programs or at home?**

- Boy Scouts are in development process creating a merit badge called “computers.” Process to get a merit badge – scout must perform tasks, take a test, meet with a counselor, and explain importance/significance of what has been learned.
- Department of Homeland Security is in discussion to re-establish the KIS (Kids Improving Security) poster contest.
- WebWise Kids has developed “Wired with Wisdom” an online tutorial that is five modules approx. 20 minutes in length dealing with safety, ethics, and security in an easy to understand method.
- Package of cyber ethics materials including teacher training and internships for high school students.
- Free resources available on cyber bullying. “Canned” presentations that give school resource officers resources to take message into the community. All are age-appropriate and schools can also download and use without an Internet connection.
- iKeepSafe.org has created a picture book about Internet safety, and an animated feature that goes along with it available online. Laura Bush is participating in the next book about Mrs. Bush’s cat and takes place in the white house. The book should be completed by February 2006.
- NCSA in partnership has developed a DVD presentation in-a-box on cyber security.
- Protectkids.com targets the adult community and promotes that protecting children in cyberspace is a shared responsibility between legal community, educators, etc.

## **2. What are the barriers for educators and parents that are preventing them from adopting C3 in the classroom?**

- Educators
  - The message doesn't get from the principal down to the teacher or the teacher cares but the principal doesn't care.
  - Teachers are overwhelmed and don't bring technology into the classroom because they are intimidated by students being technology savvy in today's world.
  - Different backgrounds create different levels of technical capabilities.
  - Lack technical skills and knowledge to communicate with staff.
  - Lack of finances and the content not being the most important piece to educate.
  - Resistance to change.
  - Fear of liability.
  - Perceived lack of appreciation for materials because the information is 'free.' Educators need to know what went into creating the material. Who is pushing the information?
- Parents
  - Parents are overwhelmed. They don't understand or aren't knowledgeable about Internet issues. We need to create a demand for Parents to understand and take action.

There is a need to understand that the mission of an educational network is collaboration.

## **3. What are the strategies and tactics that can be used to address these barriers?**

- Credible champions.
- Organization that stamps a seal of approval on materials – to give credibility to free materials.
- Examine all avenues and explore ways to integrate information into curriculum.
- Trying to emphasize the reason/importance of the message. Identify initiatives that institutions can utilize that will be interwoven throughout the day – from policies from higher-ups.
- Crafting the message to reach each audience.
- Explore other groups that have been successful in changing a culture.
- Change the culture of the schools. Behavioral change.

## **4. What are the best mechanisms for getting feedback from the affected communities?**

- Share the information at conferences.
- Librarians—a beginning of the year campaign.
- Joint message from (Attorney General and Surgeon General) Public Health and Public Safety.
- Public service announcement. Movie star not necessarily a politician to reach both students and parents.
- Utilizing the media to get the message out.
- Kids meals at fast food restaurants – product placements.