

APPENDIX B

School Actions and Options

Formal Disciplinary Action

Can impose formal disciplinary response if have established a school nexus and substantial and material disruption. BUT still need to address:

- Removal of materials and potential of retaliation by student or online “buddies.”
- If “put-down” cyberbully, stop all in-school bullying. If “get back at” cyberbully, stop all in-school victimization.
- Support needs of target.

If cannot impose formal discipline, other action options still available.

Working With Parents

Child Who Is “Put-Down” Cyberbully

Assumptions

- Parents unaware, but actions are against family values.
- Initial response will be disbelief, followed by anger and humiliation.
- Parents naïve about strategies to manage Internet use.

Process

- Send downloaded material and Parent Guide to parents via certified mail.
- Request meeting following day.
- Seek parental commitment to:
 - Establish prohibitions.
 - Install and use monitoring software.
 - Limit student’s access through other venues.

Increased potential for financial liability through civil litigation is a strong leverage.

Child Who Is Target, “Get Back At” Cyberbully, or Child Who Has Posted Distressing Material

- Parent could approach school, or school could find out from other source.
- Initial response of parent will be significant concern for safety and well-being of child.
- If contacting parent about reported concern, establish preliminary plan of action for support prior to meeting with parent.
- If working with parent of “get back at” cyberbully or student who has posted distressing material:
 - Ensure material is removed.
 - Install and use monitoring software.
 - Address underlying bullying or emotional concerns.
- If working with parent of target:
 - Explain limitations on formal response, but commit to assist in other ways.
 - Help parent file a complaint with the Web site or service provider.
 - Warn to watch for retaliation.

Working with Students

Working with Student Who Is Target

Addiction

- Address concerns of addiction to harmful online community.
 - Convince target to leave community.
 - Find way to get the cyberbullying to stop within the community.

Online Bully-Proofing

- Communications are preserved so student and counselor can evaluate and determine patterns of communication that may be precipitating bullying.
- Impact of harmful communication is invisible if target does not immediately respond.
- Delay in communication can provide opportunity for target to calm down and respond with strength.

When to Ask for Help

Encourage students to tell an adult if:

- They are really upset and not sure what to do.
- The cyberbullying could be a crime.
- Any cyberbullying is or might be through the Internet or cell phone at school.
- They are being bullied by the same person at school.
- The cyberbully is anonymous.
- The cyberbully is bullying other students who may be more vulnerable.

Cyberbullying Response Options

- Target can tell cyberbully to stop.
- Target can ignore cyberbully.
- Target or advocate can:
 - File a complaint with Web site or service provider.
 - Contact cyberbully’s parents.
 - Contact an attorney.
 - Contact the police.