

Prior law required public schools, beginning in third grade, to provide instruction regarding child Internet safety. New law requires public schools to provide age and grade appropriate classroom instruction regarding Internet and cell phone safety, which shall be incorporated into an existing course of study and for which the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) shall prescribe teaching materials. Such instruction shall include but need not be limited to providing students with information, with respect to both cell phones and the Internet, on the following:

- (1) Safe and responsible use of social networking websites, chat rooms, electronic mail, bulletin boards, instant messaging, and other means of electronic communication.
- (2) Risks of transmitting personal information.
- (3) Recognizing, avoiding, and reporting electronic solicitations by sexual predators.
- (4) Recognizing and reporting illegal activities and communications.
- (5) Recognizing and reporting harassment and cyberbullying.
- (6) Recognizing and avoiding unsolicited or deceptive communications.
- (7) Copyright laws on written materials, photographs, music, and video.

Prior law required the state Dept. of Education to provide to public schools materials for parents regarding Internet safety. New law instead requires public school governing authorities to provide teaching materials regarding Internet and cell phone safety to parents and legal guardians. New law is applicable to all public elementary and secondary schools, including charter schools. New law further provides that no person shall have a cause of action against any school district, school, or school employee based on any statement made or action taken, or by the omission of any statement or action, regarding the instruction required by new law. Provides that this immunity from liability shall not apply to any statement or action by a school employee that is maliciously, willfully, and deliberately intended to cause bodily harm to a student or to harass or intimidate a student.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 17:280; Adds R.S. 17:3996(B)(30))