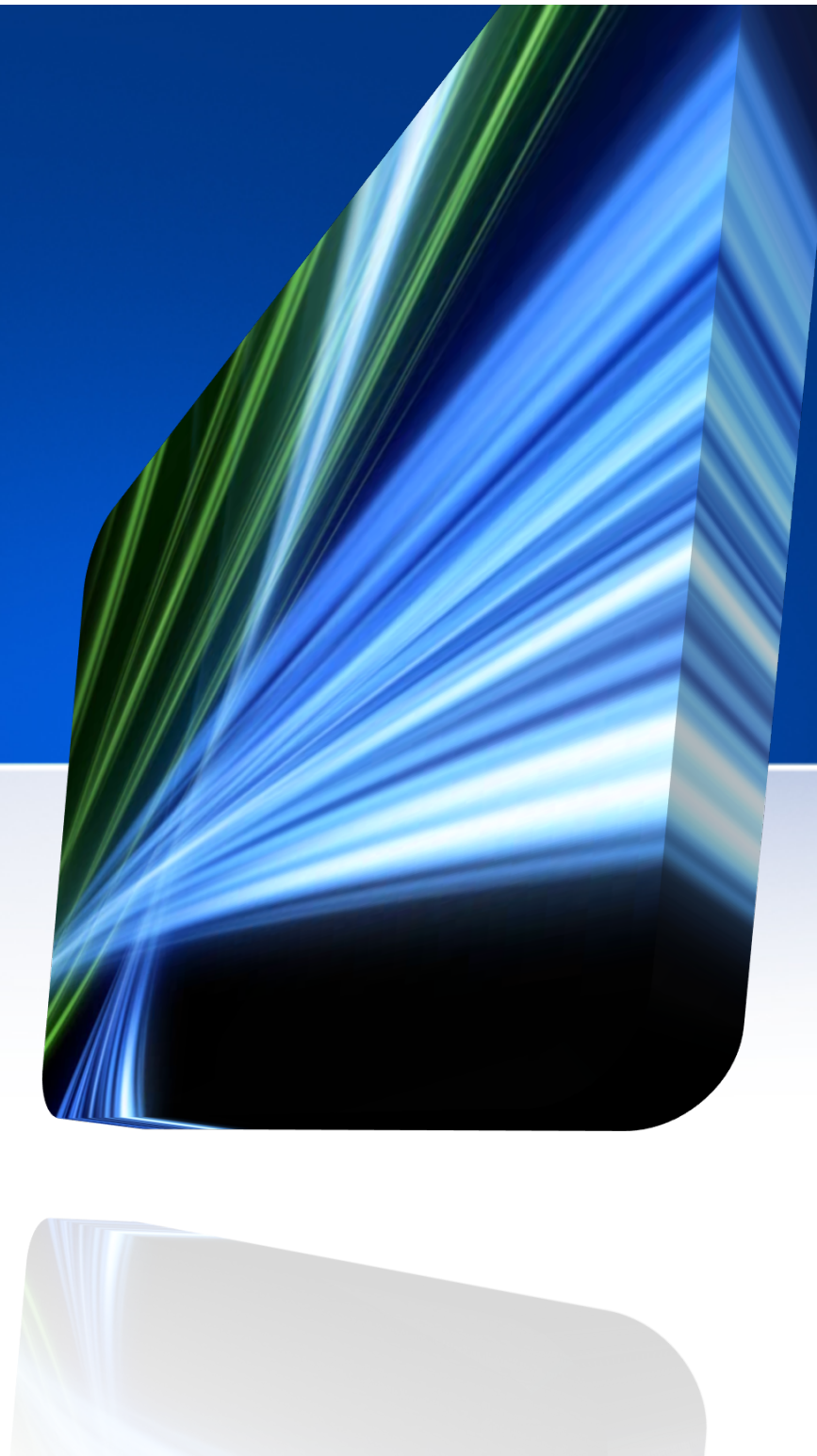


The Digital World of Kids: The Parent Connection

**Educational Development
Services, LLC**



Connected Kids



- Kids love the digital world, and view it differently than many adults;
- Pew Institute found that 35% of teens prefer digital communication with their friends as opposed to face-to-face communication;
- U.S. teens ***send*** an average of 4,200 texts per month (girls @ 4,700, boys @ 3,700); some average well over 6,000 per month;

Connected Kids



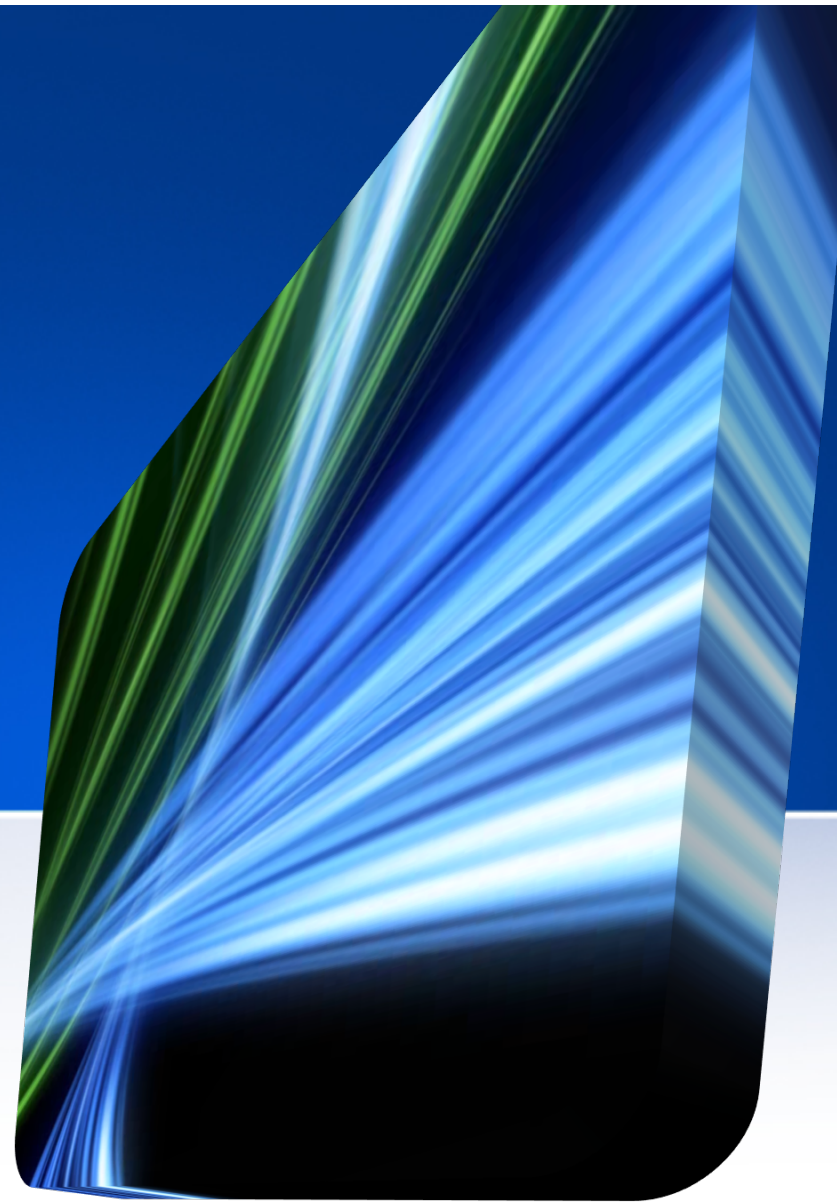
- Kids are very connected through their phones and the apps on them;
- Social apps can be great for connecting with others, capturing fun moments, posting pics, etc.;
- Some of the difficulties of those social apps are over-sharing, over-exposure, and over-reaching boundaries.

Connected Kids



- In discussions with students, many said they felt entitled to “freedom of speech”, even if that speech was harmful to another student;
- Also revealed feeling that it was “**wrong**” to hold students liable legally or criminally for their harmful speech, since those consequences seriously harm the offending student;
- Many students express the belief their digital speech is “private”, and should be free from parental view.

SOCIAL MEDIA, TEXTING & SEXTING



What Is Helpful to Know About Social Media & Texting



- Depending on which study you look at, youth spend an average of 9 to 11 hours per day connected;
- Texting is primary, followed closely by social media and the apps they use to communicate;
- Some apps are definitely better than others;
- Some apps are known as the “hook-up” app, or the “sexting” app;

Sexting



- Sexting has become more normalized than ever before, with on average 1 in about 4 females between the ages of 13 to 18, and 1 in about 5 males engaging in sexting;
- So what exactly is sexting?
- Is it sexting if a female teen sends a pic of themselves in their bra and underwear?
- If the sender of a nude image is 18 years old, is it illegal?

Sexting



- In PA, there is a law that defines sexting among youth;
- When a minor aged 12 to 17:
- Knowingly transmits, distributes, publishes or disseminates an electronic communication containing a sexually explicit image of himself.
- Knowingly possess or knowingly views a sexually explicit image of a minor who is 12 years of age or older.

Sexting



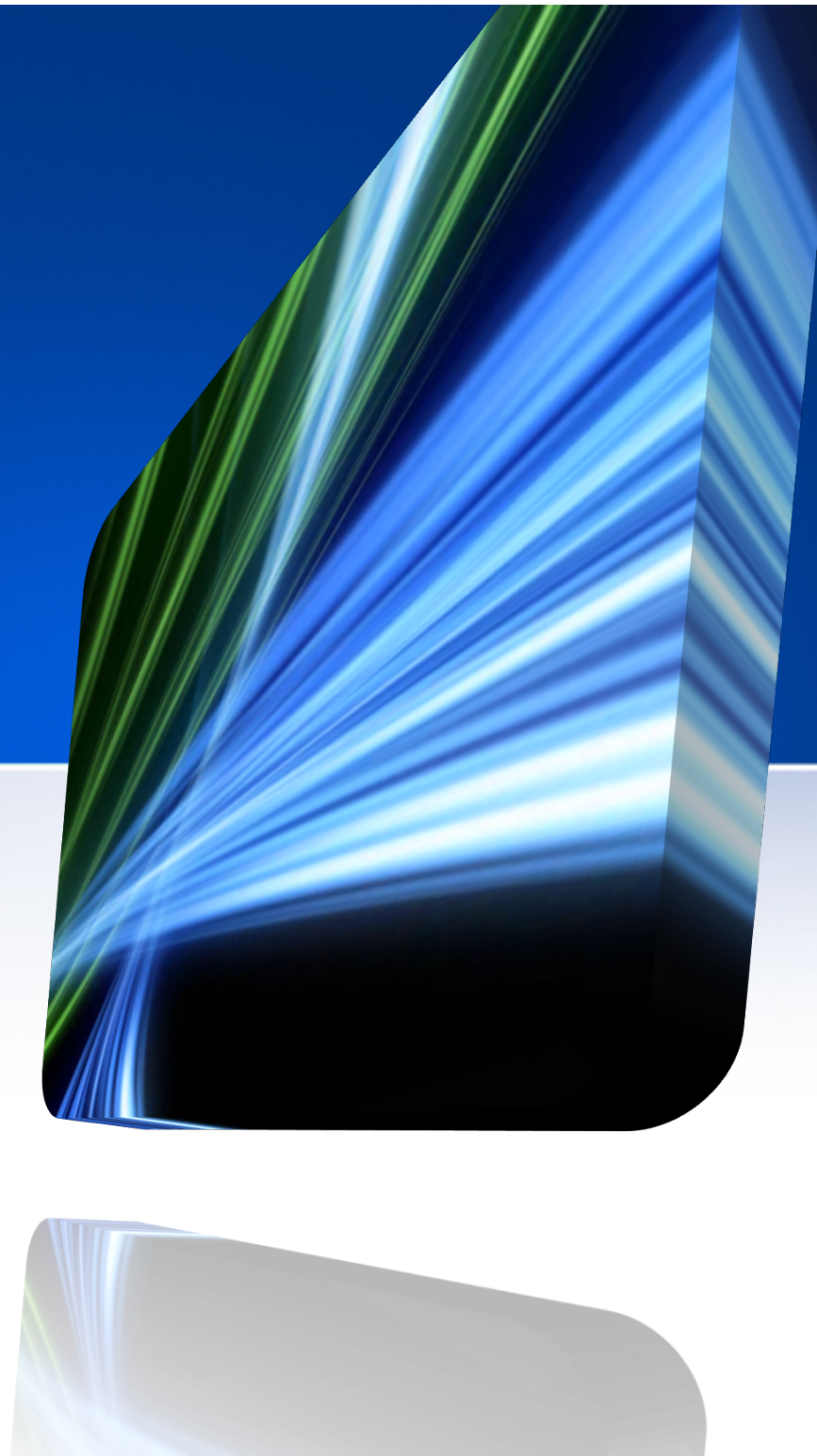
- Occurs primarily through texting, social media and apps;
- Can be between individuals or spread through a school system;
- Images are sometimes stored in vault or ghost apps;
- Snap chat is one app often used for sexting;

Snap Chat

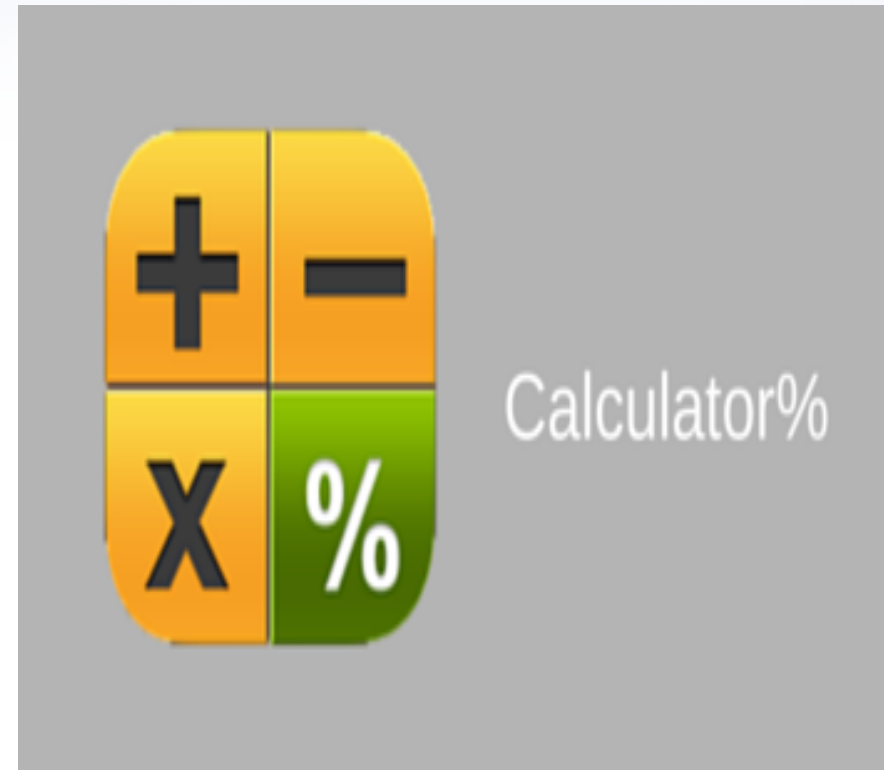


- Appealing because you can:
- Snap photos and videos that are automatically deleted after a set number of seconds;
- ***But....***
- States that “***Although we attempt to delete image data as soon as possible after the message is transmitted, we cannot guarantee that the message contents will be deleted in every case.***”
- New apps devoted to circumvent Snap Chat.

APPS



Vault or Ghost Apps

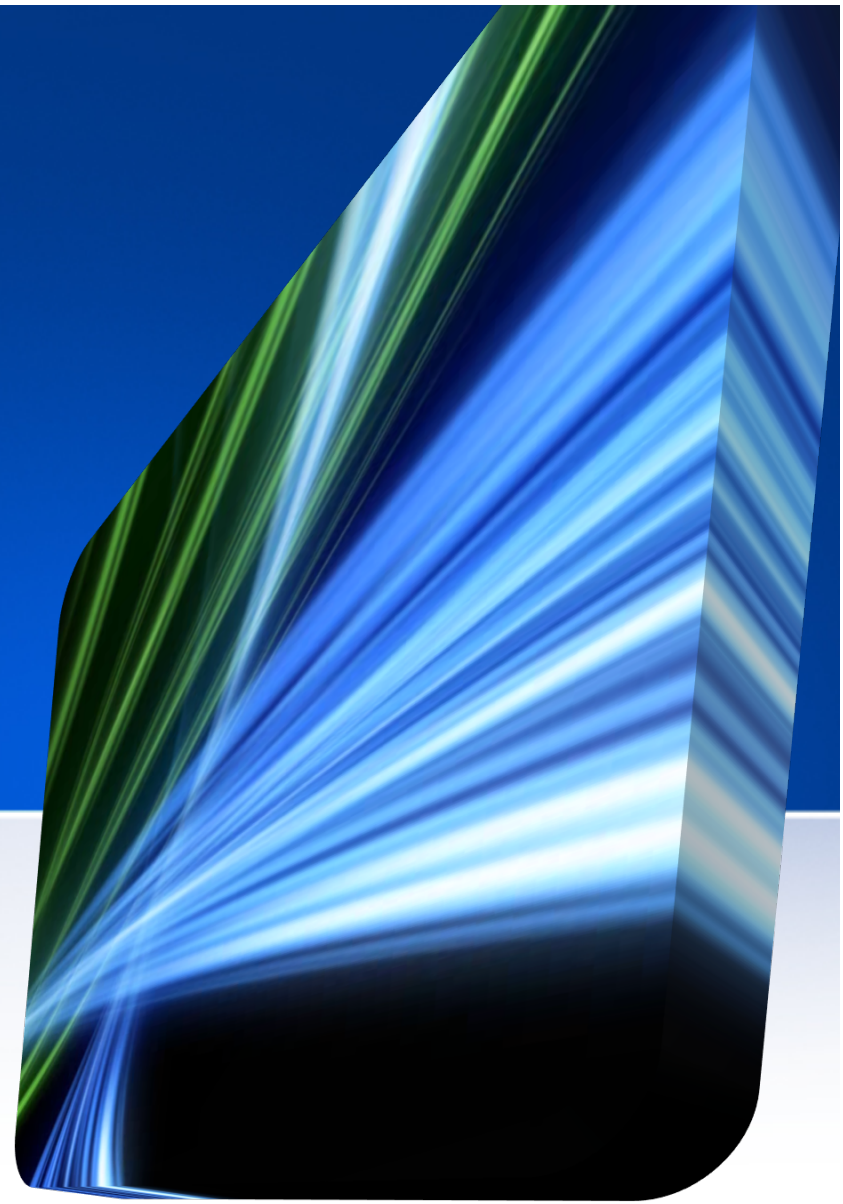


Apps



- Apps that can be ok:
- ooVoo, Periscope, Snap Chat, Tumblr, Vine and WhatsApp;
- Apps to be concerned about:
- AfterSchool, Ask.fm, BurnBook, Kik, Omegle, Secret, WhatsGoodly, Whisper, Yik Yak, YouNow and Tinder;
- www.common sense media.org and <https://safesmartsocial.com> are great sites to keep up on trending apps.

BULLYING, CYBER- BULLYING & CRIMINAL CONDUCT



Bullying & Cyber-Bullying



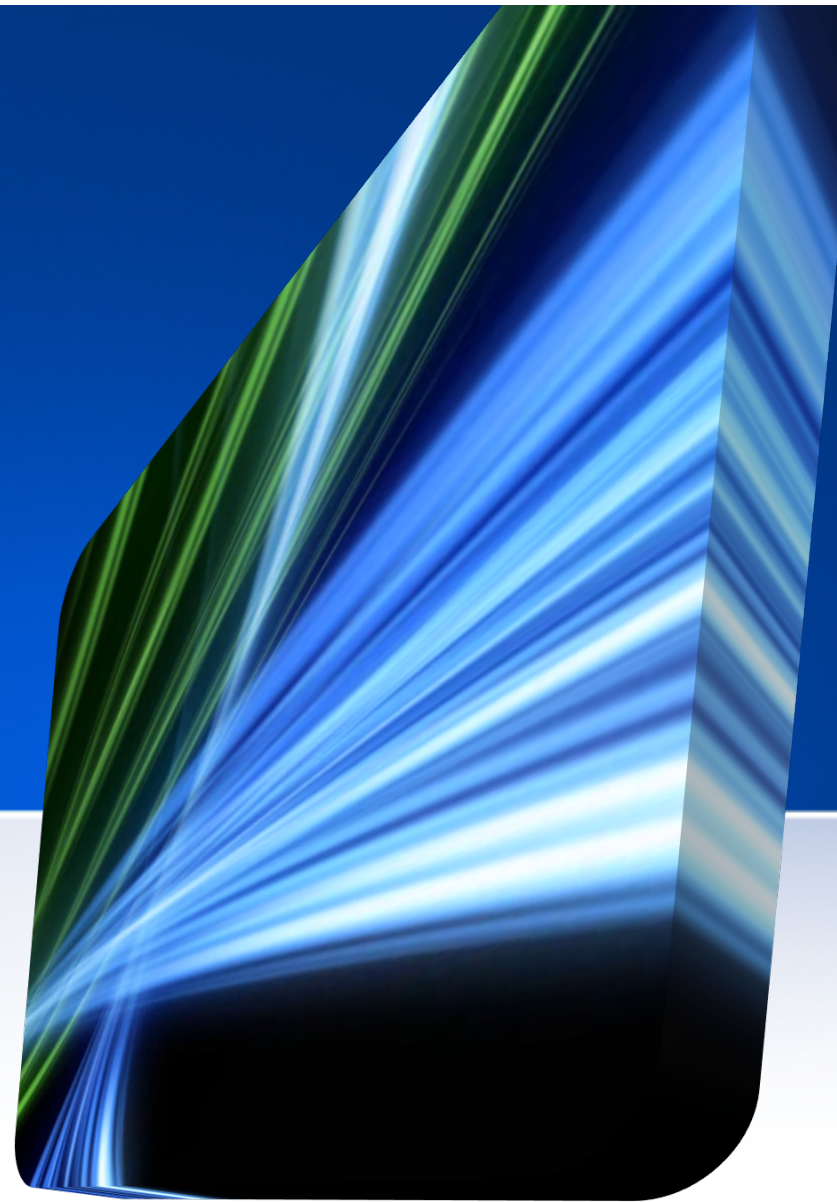
- There is no constitutional right to be cruel;
- While there is substantial freedom of speech, there are also boundaries to digital speech;
- Inappropriate or harmful digital speech often crosses the line into criminal conduct;
- Boundaries of digital speech are both criminal and civil.

Criminal Conduct



- As of October, 2015, cyberbullying and cyber harassment are now criminal conduct in PA;
- Through Act 26, youth can be arrested for cyber bullying and cyber harassment, entering into a diversionary program to address behavior;
- Also subject to other sanctions, such as probation, fines, counseling, etc;

COLLEGES & HR DIRECTORS



College Admission Officers



- Many college admissions officers routinely check out the Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Vine, etc., sites of applicants;
- Also check out YouTube and archive sites;
- Negative information impacted their decisions on admissions and scholarships;
- Acceptances have been rescinded;
- Monitor student's digital speech and social media.

What they don't like...



- Profanity and vulgarity;
- Biased, bigoted, illegal group membership or likes;
- Alcohol consumption or tales of excess;
- Anything remotely illegal;
- Provocative or inappropriate pics;
- Bullying and harassing exchanges;
- Social media postings can be the tie-breaker or deal-breaker;

What they want to see...



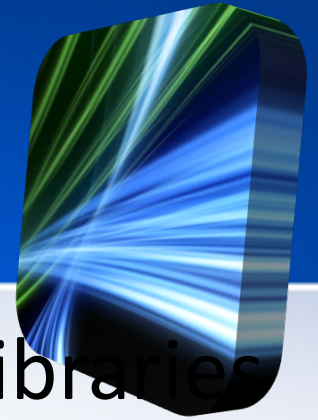
- Positive engagement and discourse;
- Decency in interactions;
- What students care about;
- Volunteering;
- Writing skills;
- Discussion of academic and/or life goals;
- Overall positive image.

HR Directors



- About 75% of HR Directors now do comprehensive digital reputation reviews prior to hiring;
- When your child finishes post high-school education, will be routine to do comprehensive review on all applicants;
- Why hire someone with a problematic reputation when others are “clean”;
- What will they find out about your child?

Archive Sites & Digital Reputations



- Archived web sites are essentially digital libraries of Internet sites
- Archived sites use web crawlers (web spiders, web robots or “bots”) that browse the Internet in a methodical, automated manner.
- The bots download snapshots from the Internet, all day, every day;
- If you have space on any social networking site, your stuff is saved somewhere;

Digital Reputations



- If you have any space on a social networking site, you have already created your digital reputation;
- Your information is being maintained in multiple places;
- Your information is maintained forever;
- Every keystroke adds to your digital reputation;
- What does yours say about you?
- Some adults' sites are extraordinarily problematic.

PARENTS & MONITORING



Monitoring Apps



- Apps now available to monitor kids digital speech;
- www.uknowkids.com is one example;
- Mobile monitoring – droids, blackberry & iPhones; I-pods & I-pads;
- Social networking monitoring – Facebook, Twitter & Instagram;
- Can have your cell phone carrier mirror your kid's phone to yours.

Managing Kids Digital World



- Learn, learn, learn about your kids' electronic world.
- Manage your child's electronic life as you do other aspects of their life – know where they are going, who they are spending time with, and what they are doing there.
- Discuss the electronic world's lack of privacy ***often*** with your child – kids tend to be electronically savvy but woefully ignorant of responsibilities and consequences;

Managing the Digital World



- Have periodic discussions with your child about their digital speech and its ramifications;
- Learn all your child's user-names and passwords to their accounts;
- Require that all cell phones be charged overnight in a common area of your home;
- Periodically check their texts;

Managing the Digital World



- Think through your child's needs & developmental level;
- Be sure your child knows what your expectations are for their digital behavior and be ready to hold them accountable;
- Monitoring their digital world is just as important as monitoring their physical world is.