

How can we keep students safe online?

Position: With highly visible policies on the safe and ethical use of the Internet, schools can protect students while also teaching them how to be secure digital citizens.

Do you agree?

A robust mobile learning program may require that students have access to a variety of resources, including those blocked by many internet filtering programs, such as YouTube*. As examined in [Opening Doors](#), filters can be overly restrictive and some argue it's better to teach students appropriate use practices as a lifelong skill. Many schools, however, are reluctant to offer full Internet access for fear of students' privacy and personal safety, as well as their ability to view inappropriate content. The following resource lists consider two additional arguments—cyberbullying and student privacy—for a highly regulated Internet or effective use policies in schools. Read about these issues and discuss with colleagues.

Cyberbullying

Bullying is not new to schools, but the Internet has expanded the practice beyond the playground and hallways to the online spaces victims cannot escape as easily. Cyberbullying may range from leaving cruel comments on a victim's Facebook page to creating faux profiles and pretending to befriend or love the victim, only to suddenly turn cruel or reveal their secrets publicly. Highly visible cases of cyberbullying have drawn attention to this new form of torment and its potential consequences. Consider these two questions as you review the cyberbullying resources below:

- 1) What role should the school play in preventing cyberbullying?
 - 2) Does student access to social networking and other communication and collaboration sites, even if intended for educational purposes, enable further bullying?
- [Stop Bullying: Cyberbullying*](#)
 - [Cyberbullying Research Center*](#)

Student Privacy

Privacy online is a matter of ongoing negotiation. Schools must protect students' privacy—in lines with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), and Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (COPPA)—while also determining the boundaries of students' privacy with regards to free speech. Additionally, with students sharing more and more of themselves online, even unintentionally such as through app permissions and cookies, schools must consider their role in teaching students to protect their privacy and manage their reputations online. The following links discuss the role of schools and online privacy *This report provides a clear table of various mobile learning theories with example technologies. The report also provides several examples of mobile learning in practice.*

- Naismith, L., Lonsdale, P., Vavoula, G., & Sharples, M. (2006). Literature Review in Mobile Technologies and Learning. FutureLab. Retrieved from http://www.futurelab.org.uk/sites/default/files/Mobile_Technologies_and_Learning_review.pdf*

- CIPA, COPPA, and FERPA
 - [FCC Guides: CIPA*](#)
 - [FTC Strengthens Kids' Privacy, Gives Parents Greater Control Over Their Information By Amending Children's Privacy Protection Rule*](#)
 - [OnGuardOnline.gov, Information for Educators*](#)
 - [FERPA and Social Media*](#)
 - [Stay Safe Online: Teaching Online Safety for Middle & High School](#)
- Mobile Apps, Social Media, and Privacy
 - [Mobile Privacy Disclosures: Building Trust through Transparency*](#)
 - [Mobile Apps for Kids: Disclosures Still Not Making the Grade*](#)
- Social Media, Privacy, and Free Speech
 - [Social Media: Guidelines for School Administrators*](#)
 - [The Disappearing Schoolhouse Gate: Applying Tinker in the Internet Age*](#)