

Safety and Education for the Internet

- Whereas, More than 90% of teens age 12-17 have Internet access and spend substantial amounts of time online, using media, such as emailing, researching, playing games, and using social networking sites media^{1,2,3,4}; and
- Whereas, Teens aren't careful enough when sharing personal information online^{4,5}; and
- Whereas, Approximately one in seven youth (10- to 17-years-old) received a sexual approach over the Internet, 34% had an unwanted exposure to sexual material, and only 27% of the youth who encountered unwanted sexual material told a parent or guardian⁶; and
- Whereas, Youths' texting usage jumped 8 percent from 2009 to 2010, rising to an average of 3,339 texts per month and 40,068 per year, and other communication options including e-mail, instant messaging, chat rooms, Web pages, blogs, cell phones, text messaging, camera phones, message boards, Internet games, social media platforms, and voice chat abilities continue to grow at an exponential rate⁷; and
- Whereas, Parents are the most often cited source of advice and the biggest influence on teens' understanding of appropriate and inappropriate digital behavior⁸; and
- Whereas, Digital media are changing the way young people learn, play, socialize, and participate in civic life⁹; and
- Whereas, Parents, teachers and others with a stake in a young person's education need to participate in the new digital world to understand it and to provide guidance for young people's learning¹⁰; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, Utah PTA support the establishment of a national and local, voluntary, multi-dimensional rating system of Internet information to aid families in their supervision and guidance of their children's use of the Internet; and be it further
- Resolved, Utah PTA support legislation that would bring sanctions against those who know or should have known they are offering false ratings; and be it further
- Resolved, Utah PTA and its constituent organizations inform and educate parents, educators, policy makers, and communities on the dangers associated with the Internet and that information be provided for the reporting of violations of safety, and be it further
- Resolved, Utah PTA and its constituent organizations provide training to parents, educators, and students for the safe, responsible, effective, and ethical use of the Internet and other communication technology.

Documentation:

- ¹Kristin Purcell. Teens, the Internet, and Communication Technology. Pew Internet & American Life Project, 2010. Retrieved from <http://www.pewinternet.org/Search.aspx?q=Teens&q=%20the%20Internet&q=%20and%20Communication%20Technology>
- ²Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project (November, 2011). Teens, Kindness and Cruelty on Social Network Sites: How American teens navigate the new world of "digital citizenship." <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2011/Teens-and-social-media.aspx>
- ³Kaiser Family Foundation. Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year Olds, 2010. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/8010.cfm>
- ⁴Cox Communications, in partnership with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and John Walsh. 2009. "Teen Online and Wireless Safety Survey: Cyberbullying, Sexting, And Parental Controls." See also: "Cox Communication's National Teen Summit On Internet And Wireless Safety Addresses Cyberbullying, Sexting & Other Safety Issues." <http://www.scribd.com/doc/20023365/2009-Cox-Teen-Online-Wireless-Safety-Survey-Cyberbullying-Sexting-and-Parental-Controls>.
- ⁵Amanda Lenhart. Protecting Teens Online. Pew Internet & American Life Project, 2005. Retrieved from <http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2005/Protecting-Teens-Online/Summary-of-Findings.aspx>
- ⁶McCarty, Cheryl; Prawitz, Aimee D.; Derscheid, Linda E.; Montgomery, Bette. CyberPsychology, Behavior & Social Networking, Mar2011, Vol. 14 Issue 3, p169-174.
- ⁷David Finkelhor, Kimberly J. Mitchell, and Janis Wolak. Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later. Alexandria, Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2006. Retrieved from <http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ResourceServlet?PageId=2530>
- ⁸The Nielsen Company. U.S. Teen Mobile Report: Calling Yesterday, Texting Today, Using Apps Tomorrow, 2010. Retrieved from http://blog.nielsen.com/nielsenwire/online_mobile/u-s-teen-mobile-report-calling-yesterday-texting-today-using-apps-tomorrow/
- ⁹Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project (November, 2011). Teens, Kindness and Cruelty on Social Network Sites: How American teens navigate the new world of "digital citizenship." <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2011/Teens-and-social-media.aspx>
- ¹⁰John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (March, 2011). Exploring Digital Media & Learning. www.macfound.org/education
- ¹¹John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (March, 2011). Exploring Digital Media & Learning. www.macfound.org/education