

## DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

- WHEREAS, With the advent of the World Wide Web in August of 1991, we have adapted to its presence as a constant and have incorporated it into many facets of human life thereby creating digital citizenship and a need to teach students, children, and technology users on how to use technology appropriately;<sup>1, 2</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Social media is defined as forms of inexpensive and widely accessible electronic communication through which users build relationships and create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content;<sup>3, 4</sup> and
- WHEREAS, 81% of kids between the ages of 12 and 17 use social media;<sup>5</sup> and 86% of youth have posted personal identifying information online such as their address, phone number, school name;<sup>6</sup> and where one in six online teens say they have been contacted online, by someone they did not know, in a way that made them feel scared or uncomfortable;<sup>7</sup> and 88% of teens have seen someone be mean or cruel to another person on a social networking site;<sup>8</sup> and
- WHEREAS, One in three teens say they feel more accepted online than they do in real life,<sup>9</sup> and that teen social media users report that social media makes them feel better connected to their friends' feelings;<sup>10</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Social media has many benefits but when social media postings violate the law or District policies or create a substantial disruption to the school community and/or work environment, the administrator may have an obligation to respond and take appropriate action, including but not limited to investigation and possible discipline;<sup>11, 12</sup> and
- WHEREAS, 69% of young people (ages 10-23) take some measure to hide their online behavior from their parents<sup>13</sup> thus creating the need for parents to be directly involved in the social media sites that children have access to and consider using filters or other technological tools to help limit exposure to potentially harmful or distressing material;<sup>14</sup> therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations assist schools, community councils, parents and students in learning safe and responsible digital citizen behaviors through trainings, consultation, and distribution of resources; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations help educate parents on the importance of monitoring their youth and teens' digital behavior and activity online and help parents find appropriate resources such as, but not limited to, filters or other technological tools to help limit exposure to potentially harmful content; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations be familiar with advances in technology, social networking, digital devices, applications (apps) etc., their uses, and the potential impact on the safety and development on youth and teens; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations work with legislators, state and local school boards, and school community councils to establish appropriate social media policies and discipline measures in regards to, but not limited to, cyberbullying, sexting, and hazing.

## Documentation:

- <sup>1</sup>"Digital Citizenship School Program." Globaldigitalcitizen.org. Global Digital Citizen Foundation, n.d. Web.
- <sup>2</sup>"Nine Elements of Digital Citizenship." Digitalcitizenship.net. Mike Ribble, n.d. Web.
- <sup>3</sup>"Social Media." Merriam-Webster. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web.
- <sup>4</sup>"Definition of Social Media in English." Oxforddictionaries.com. Oxford University Press, n.d. Web.
- <sup>5</sup>"Teens Fact Sheet." Pewinternet.org. Pew Research Center Internet Science Tech RSS, 21 May 2012. Web.
- <sup>6</sup>"McAfee Digital Deception Study 2013: Exploring the Online Disconnect between Parents & Pre-teens, Teens and Young Adults." (2013): 10. McAfee.com. McAfee, 28 May 2013. Web.
- <sup>7</sup>Madden, Mary, Amanda Lenhart, Sandra Cortesi, Urs Gasser, Maeve Duggan, Aaron Smith, and Meredith Beaton. "Teens, Social Media, and Privacy." Pewinternet.org. Pew Research Center Internet Science Tech RSS, 21 May 2013. Web.
- <sup>8</sup>Lenhart, Amanda, Aaron Smith, Mary Madden, Kristen Purcell, Kathryn Zickurr, and Lee Rainie. "Teens, Kindness and Cruelty on Social Network Sites." Pewinternet.org. Pew Research Center Internet Science Tech RSS, 9 Nov. 2011. Web.
- <sup>9</sup>"Cyberbullying Triples According to New McAfee "2014 Teens and the Screen Study"" McAfee.com. McAfee, 3 June 2014. Web.
- <sup>10</sup>Lenhart, Amanda. "Chapter 4: Social Media and Friendships." Pewinternet.org. Pew Research Center Internet Science Tech RSS, 06 Aug. 2015. Web.
- <sup>11</sup>Herold, Benjamin. "Schools Weigh Access to Students' Social-Media Passwords." Edweek.org. Education Week, 17 Feb. 2015. Web.
- <sup>12</sup>O'Donovan, Eamonn. "Social Media: Guidelines for School Administrators." Districtadministration.com. District Administration Magazine, July-Aug. 2012. Web.
- <sup>13</sup>Tahnk, Jeana Lee. "13 Tips for Monitoring Kids' Social Media." Parenting.com. Parenting, n.d. Web.
- <sup>14</sup>"Social Networking." Netsmartz.org. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, n.d. Web.