



Together, we can.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Don Cantrell, Chair
SCDE CyberSafety Task Force

FROM: Dr. Valerie E. Harrison 
Deputy Superintendent, Division of Standards and Learning

DATE: July 23, 2009

RE: South Carolina Internet Safety Standards

Educators in this information age have a responsibility to ensure that our students are not only technology savvy but also technology literate. This literacy goes beyond knowing and using such things as social networks, text messaging, and YouTube. Students must be taught how to use them responsibly and safely. As new technologies continue to emerge and become a part of our instructional landscape, the need to help our students develop this technology literacy becomes even more critical to their overall education.

The AASL *Standards for the 21st Century Learner* and the ISTE NETS-Students mention this responsible use of information and technology but they stop short in dealing with the issue of student safety in an online environment. We have seen in South Carolina discussions about Internet Safety Standards and recently federal legislation, The School and Family Education about the Internet (SAFE Internet) Act, was introduced. If passed, this legislation would create a grant program aimed at helping state education agencies develop an Internet safety and awareness program.

The SCDE CyberSafety Task Force is to be commended for their work in the area of Internet safety and specifically their development of state standards to facilitate our classroom teachers, library media specialists, technology coaches, and others in teaching our students how to use technology responsibly and safely. Because of the work of the Task Force, South Carolina is ahead of other states in this area and in a good position to apply for any funds available for developing Internet safety program.

The Division of Standards and Learning supports and endorses these Internet safety standards. Our staff look forward to working with members of your Task Force to share information about these standards with all our constituents and to developing sample lesson plans and instructional units showing how these standards can be

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incorporated into regular classroom, computer lab, and library media center instruction.

Cc: Ms. Robin E. Rivers, Interim Director
Office of Standards and Support

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