

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 27-13.3 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-13.3)

7 Sec. 27-13.3. Internet safety education curriculum.

8 (a) The purpose of this Section is to inform and protect  
9 students from inappropriate or illegal communications and  
10 solicitation and to encourage school districts to provide  
11 education about Internet threats and risks, including without  
12 limitation child predators, fraud, and other dangers.

13 (b) The General Assembly finds and declares the following:

14 (1) it is the policy of this State to protect consumers  
15 and Illinois residents from deceptive and unsafe  
16 communications that result in harassment, exploitation, or  
17 physical harm;

18 (2) children have easy access to the Internet at home,  
19 school, through electronic communication devices, and  
20 public places;

21 (3) the Internet is used by sexual predators and other  
22 criminals to make initial contact with children and other  
23 vulnerable residents in Illinois; ~~and~~

1           (3.5) the Internet and electronic communication  
2           devices can be used to harass or exploit minors through  
3           transmitted images or text messages; and

4           (4) education is an effective method for preventing  
5           children from falling prey to online predators, identity  
6           theft, harassment and exploitation by peers, and other  
7           dangers.

8           (c) Each school may adopt an age-appropriate curriculum for  
9           Internet safety instruction of students in grades kindergarten  
10          through 12. However, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year,  
11          a school district must incorporate into the school curriculum a  
12          component on Internet safety to be taught at least once each  
13          school year to students in grades 3 through 12. The school  
14          board shall determine the scope and duration of this unit of  
15          instruction. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, a school  
16          district must include in the age-appropriate curriculum topics  
17          regarding the appropriate use of electronic communication  
18          devices, including, but not limited to, the risks and  
19          consequences of dissemination and transmission of sexually  
20          explicit images and video. The age-appropriate unit of  
21          instruction may be incorporated into the current courses of  
22          study regularly taught in the district's schools, as determined  
23          by the school board, and it is recommended that the unit of  
24          instruction include the following topics:

25               (1) Safe and responsible use of social networking  
26               websites, chat rooms, electronic mail, bulletin boards,

1 instant messaging, and other means of communication on the  
2 Internet.

3 (2) Recognizing, avoiding, and reporting online  
4 solicitations of students, their classmates, and their  
5 friends by sexual predators.

6 (3) Risks of transmitting personal information on the  
7 Internet.

8 (4) Recognizing and avoiding unsolicited or deceptive  
9 communications received online.

10 (5) Recognizing and reporting online harassment and  
11 cyber-bullying.

12 (6) Reporting illegal activities and communications on  
13 the Internet.

14 (7) Copyright laws on written materials, photographs,  
15 music, and video.

16 (d) Curricula devised in accordance with subsection (c) of  
17 this Section may be submitted for review to the Office of the  
18 Illinois Attorney General.

19 (e) The State Board of Education shall make available  
20 resource materials for educating children regarding child  
21 online safety and may take into consideration the curriculum on  
22 this subject developed by other states, as well as any other  
23 curricular materials suggested by education experts, child  
24 psychologists, or technology companies that work on child  
25 online safety issues. Materials may include without limitation  
26 safe online communications, privacy protection,

1 cyber-bullying, viewing inappropriate material, file sharing,  
2 the dissemination and transmission of images and video, and the  
3 importance of open communication with responsible adults. The  
4 State Board of Education shall make these resource materials  
5 available on its Internet website.

6 (Source: P.A. 95-509, eff. 8-28-07; 95-869, eff. 1-1-09;  
7 96-734, eff. 8-25-09.)

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
9 2011.