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## POLL RESULTS

### Should Schools Regulate Offsite Online Behavior?

Poll results suggest that most feel schools should regulate offsite online behavior, yet those who wrote us were overwhelmingly against the idea.

#### Absolutely Not!

If we start expecting schools to regulate offsite online behavior, then where do we stop? For consistency, why don't we then ask schools to simply start to regulate all our students' offsite behavior and activities whatever they may be, such as a birthday party over at Uncle Johnny's or overseas vacation trips? How reasonable is that? Let's not forget that schools are not our students' personal "babysitter" after school hours and that schools are not the only party responsible for raising our children. After all, parents and guardians have a responsibility as well—especially after school hours.

*Bjorn Norstrom*

*Colchester Middle School  
Colchester, Vermont*

#### Respond Appropriately

The key word in this debate is "regulate." Schools don't have the resources to regulate offsite online behavior but should respond appropriately in severe cases where "substantial and material disruption..." may take place. Furthermore, schools should provide resources to all students and parents on how to deal with cyberbullying.

*Randy Orwin*

*Bainbridge Island School District  
Bainbridge Island, Washington*

#### Consider the Constitution

Last time I checked we were all living in the United States of America, unless Fox News has corrupted us more than even I thought. I believe that the document, called the Constitution, under which we live gives all citizens

equal rights of expression. Schools have the right to regulate how their own facilities are used. But, they do not have the right to interfere with students off campus. I believe the legal system has supported this idea, because my quick look at lawsuits indicates that whenever a school has tried to discipline a student for offsite activity, that school lost in whatever student lawsuit was adjudicated. I think there was an anomaly recently, but I believe that in general the law will protect students.

*Patrick Greene*

*Florida Gulf Coast University  
Fort Myers, Florida*

#### Balance Is the Key

Schools need to take a balanced approach to addressing offsite online behavior. Educate students about bullying and appropriate online behavior. Do not police blogs and Web sites. Take immediate action when a situation spills over into the schools, especially by involving the parents and notifying the police.

*Joseph L. Hood*

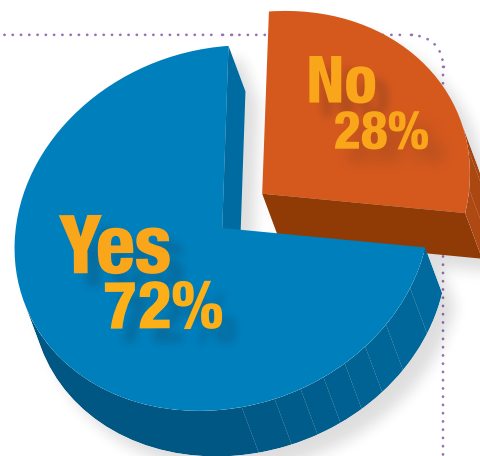
*Mechanicsburg Area School District  
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania*

#### Let's Be Realistic

Schools can and should regulate the school-related consequences of students' offsite online behavior such as slander, threats, and cyberbullying. But an expectation of regulating the actual online behavior is unrealistic. Managing Web site filters within the school walls is difficult enough.

*Mark Glowacz*

*St. Michael's Catholic Academy  
Austin, Texas*



#### Schools Don't Replace Good Parenting

Part of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century school's responsibility is to educate students on proper use of technology and regulate onsite online behavior, but it is not our responsibility to regulate offsite online activity. Schools already focus on children's social, emotional, and physical development, as well as their academic skills, but schools aren't designed to replace good parenting.

*Sue Stoddart*

*Marian College, School of Education  
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin*

#### Our Job Is to Educate

This question is essentially asking if schools can and should monitor and regulate all student behavior, as today's "communicatively literate" students' lives are wrapped up 24/7 in texting, IMs, Web pages, and gaming. Schools are not parents and schools are not police. Our mission is to educate. If out-of-school actions such as bullying or harassment carry over into school and affect the learning of others, then it should be dealt with. Until that point, the ethical and safe use of technology should be taught and modeled to our students while in school. That is a more effective use of our time.

*Barry A. Bachenheimer*

*Caldwell-West Caldwell Public Schools  
West Caldwell, New Jersey*