## Cyberbullying

### What is Cyberbullying?

cyberbullying:

the use of electronic communication to bully a person

# What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else.

Cyberbullying is a crime in many states.



# Impact of Cyberbullying

- Cyberbullying is not harmless just because it takes place online
- Cyberbullying hurts real people
- Victims of cyberbullying may experience isolation, low self-esteem, or depression

## Cyberbullying is:

- Persistent: Digital devices allow constant communication, so victims don't have respite
- Permanent: Cyberbullying can contribute to the digital footprint of the victim and the bully
- Discreet: Teachers and parents can't see or overhear cyberbullying

# **Cyberbullying Roles**

- Bully: uses digital devices to harass and hurt somebody
- Victim: is being cyberbullied
- Bystanders: are aware of cyberbullying but don't intervene
- Upstanders: try to break the cycle of cyberbullying

#### What should you do if you're being bullied?

- Do not respond to harassment or threats--this may encourage the bully
- Keep a record of messages received (print or take screenshots)
- Reach out to parents, teachers, counselors, and school administrators
- Block communication from the bully (if possible)

#### What should you do if you're being bullied?

- Report bullies to website admin--oftentimes bullying is a violation of terms of use
- Don't retaliate by bullying the bully--you could get in trouble for this!
- Don't forward messages from the bully
- Don't believe the bully!

#### What should you do if you see bullying?

- Don't be a bystander by doing nothing. This allows the bullying to continue.
- Be an upstander--break the cycle of bullying!



### How to be an Upstander

- Reach out to the victim--let them know that you care and encourage them to seek help
- Don't bully the person who is being a bully
- Tell a teacher, parent, or counselor about the bullying
- Report bullying to the website admin

#### In Conclusion...

- Do not participate in cyberbullying (even in response to a bully)
- Ask for help if you are being cyberbullied
- Stand up if you see somebody being cyberbullied