

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum, Instruction, and School Improvement

**SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO IMPLEMENT THE *SAFE-ONLINE SURFING CHALLENGE (FBI-SOS) PROGRAM* INTO THE CURRICULUM FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES SIX AND SEVEN**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Internet, as a revolutionizing tool for access to information and providing undeniable benefits to consumers and education, has been at the forefront of concern for families, educators, and policymakers as more children experience online activities and opportunities while exploring the information highway. While online exploration through the Internet opens a world of possibilities for children, and serves as a valuable asset and powerful tool, it also serves as a venue for exposing children to sexually explicit material that may be inappropriate or harmful. Recent studies show:

- 96% of all youth access the Internet with 74% accessing from home (Kaiser Foundation, 2005)
- 66% of all youth use Instant Messaging (Kaiser Foundation, 2006)
- Six in ten children online receive e-mail or Instant Message from strangers and more than half write back (FBI, 2005)
- 29% of children freely give personal information online when asked (NOP Research Group, 2002)
- One in five youth receives online sexual solicitation in a one year period and in 15% of those cases, the solicitor attempted to meet the child in person (University of New Hampshire, 2001)
- One in four children inadvertently view online pornography each year (University of New Hampshire, 2001)

The ***Safe-Online Surfing Challenge*** (FBI-SOS), as proffered by Board Chair, Mr. Agustin J. Barrera, and approved by the full Board at the May 10, 2006 Board Meeting, Agenda Item B-7, is a program designed to help teach students and parents about Internet safety. The goal of this program is to ensure that participants can recognize and avoid potential dangers associated with the Internet, such as, discussion boards, instant messaging, and chat rooms.

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To address these concerns, and to ensure that students are provided with the information and resources to learn to use the Internet in a safe and responsible manner, it is recommended that Miami-Dade County Public Schools implement the FBI Safe-Online Surfing Program (SOS) in all middle schools for students in grades six and seven.

Through the implementation of this program it is recommended that:

- All middle schools mandate the implementation of the FBI (SOS) Internet safety program for students in grades six and seven;
- All middle school principals develop a plan of implementation at their individual schools to determine which subject area will oversee the implementation of the FBI (SOS) Internet safety program;
- All students in grades six and seven are provided the opportunity to register for the FBI (SOS) Internet safety program online during the school day and complete the Scavenger Hunt online;
- All students in grades six and seven are provided the opportunity to take the FBI (SOS) online quiz;
- All middle schools are mandated to report the number of students in grades six and seven who complete the FBI (SOS) Internet safety program to the Division of Life Skills and Special Projects by April 27, 2007.

As a follow-up to the ***Faux Paw Internet Safety Program*** implemented for elementary schools during the 2005-2006 school year, it is further recommended that all elementary schools are mandated to report the number of elementary school students who are provided with Internet safety instruction during the school year, and that that report also be submitted to the Division of Life Skills and Special Projects by April 27, 2007. This program was approved at the June 15, 2005 School Board Meeting, Item B-4, as proffered by Dr. Martin Karp, School Board Member.

There is no cost to implement these programs.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to mandate the implementation of the *Safe-Online Surfing Challenge (FBI-SOS) Program* into the curriculum for students in grades six and seven.

There is no cost to implement these programs.

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