

Is there anything I can do to respond to on-line harassment?

Lesson Objectives: Students will know the basic details and expectations related to the elements of ethical codes of conduct; and

Students will know and apply the “decision making framework” to respond to online bullying incidents.

Vocabulary: legality, ethical, morals, expected conduct, forbidden conduct, values, International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards and Code of Conduct, trier of fact and membership.

Materials: access to <https://www.iste.org/membership/become-a-member>, <https://www.iste.org/standards/iste-standards-for-students>, Fox & Bailey “decision making framework”, “Experiences of Online Bullying and Offline Violence-Related Behaviors Among a Nationally Representative Sample of US Adolescents, 2011-2019”, Journal of School Health, April 2022, Vol. 92 No.4 American School Health Association, “The Children We Mean to Raise: The Real Messages Adults Are Sending About Values” Report by Making Caring Common Project, Harvard Graduate School of Education <https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/reports/children-mean-raise> Executive Summary 2014 and KQED’s “Mind/Shift: What Students Gain from Learning Ethics in School” May 24, 2019 <https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/53701/what-students-gain-from-learning-ethics-in-school>.

Process: 1. Pre-assessment given for baseline data.

Day One

1. Introduce topic the day before the main lesson with this hypothetical

Dilemma #1: Darlene explains that she hates it when kids pick on another kid online. “Last night I was doing a group project at a Zoom

meeting with members of a group I'm in. The kids were from several different schools. We are all Techies. We belong to the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).

A couple members, however, were making fun of another member because he's a person of color. His family is from South Asia and he's really dark complected. He got mad and logged out before we were done! I don't know what I could do to respond?"

- Have you witnessed this type of online behavior? Suggestions as to proper response to reduce or stop it?
- This type of conduct is harassment or bullying. There may be legal and/or ethical consequences for the aggressors.

2. Summary of Background Info: US data from 2019 suggest that 15.7% of high school students were bullied online. Journal of School Health, April 2022, Vol. 92 No. 4, American School Health Association, page 376. Bullying, both online and offline, constitutes an important threat to the safety and well-being of adolescents. Online bullying specifically is not only a highly prevalent threat to adolescent well-being, but is recognized as increasingly pertinent to the social lives of adolescents given the shift to online engagement and socialization following the spread of Covid 19. Journal of School Health page 377.

The stronger link between online harm and offline violence and weapon carrying for adolescents of color is concerning, and interventions to reduce this behavior should recognize that online bullying is a single component of a larger pattern of harm towards adolescents of color. Journal of School Health page 383.

Online bulling was much more common among sexual minority youth in this sample between 2015 and 2019, which aligns with other studies that

report a prevalence of being bullied online among sexual minority youth as high as 71.3%. Journal of School Health page 383.

Schools should similarly consider implementing programs that establish anti-bullying digital norms. These programs should teach digital etiquette and respect, and explicitly state the harmful impact of online bullying on targets.... Journal of School Health page 384.

A good person is something one can always become; throughout life we can develop our capacities for caring and fairness as well as many other social, emotional and ethical capacities. Learning to be caring and to lead an ethical life is like learning to play an instrument or hone a craft. Daily repetition...and increasing challenge make caring second nature and develop and hone youth's caregiving capacities. With guidance from adults and practice, young people can also develop the skills and courage to know when and how to intervene in situations when they and others are imperiled. They can become effective "upstanders" or "first responders." The Children We Mean to Raise Executive Summary page 2

"When you give kids and teenagers the space to explore ethical dilemmas, this can be very powerful for students," said Jana M. Lone, director of the Center for Philosophy for Children at the University of Washington, which brings introductory philosophy to school kids in the Seattle area. Central to ethics education is teaching kids the skills to make sound decisions: to search for and evaluate their assumptions, to excavate the reasons behind those assumptions, to examine without prejudice another's opinion and to make a thoughtful decision with confidence. Mind Shift: What Students Gain from Learning Ethics in School page 2

3.Explain the “decision making framework” to address online bullying:

- discuss it with peers to get different perspectives, and
- go to an authority, attorney or educator if necessary.

4.Tell students to use the “decision making framework” to address what Darlene saw happen online.

Read on your own. Ask students to visit ISTE website, click on “Areas of Focus”, top left and then “About ISTE.” They should read text here to learn why ISTE exists; ask if students have encountered ISTE before?

- Click on Standards at top. ISTE Standards are the process ISTE recommends students follow to manage their online assignments and presence.
- Click on “For Students” and then 1.2 Digital Citizen. Click on Digital Citizen and ask students to read 1.2.b clicking on legal and ethical. Read the text balloons as well.
- As citizens of the United States, students have personal rights and personal responsibilities they owe to their fellow citizens. We also have rights and responsibilities as Digital Citizens.

5. Ask students if they understand the difference between an act that is legal as opposed to an act that is ethical?

Legality: use the ISTE search bar to learn about online harassment. Does it violate a local, Pennsylvania, federal or international law?

Ask students to type in “Pennsylvania crimes code online harassment” Title 18, Section 2709 will likely come up. Look at Section (a.1) Cyber harassment of a Child.

Ethical: use the same search bar to type “moral codes” and “codes of ethics” to see how they apply to online education.

They will see both a link to “5 Ways to Bring Ethical Thinking Into the Classroom” Book Ethics in a Digital Age by Kristen Matson and the ISTE Member & Events Code of Conduct.

6. Discuss with peers. What is a moral code? What is a code of ethics? Your moral code includes your personal beliefs as to what is right and wrong. Examples of your moral code? Do you have specific personal values that have shaped your moral code?

7. A code of ethics is a set of behaviors that a specific group of people agree should happen or should not happen within their group. These judgments are normally based upon a set of values shared by the members of the group.

8. **Homework Assignment**, students should continue reading by going to Membership in top menu bar and click on Become a Member. Go to the very bottom of that webpage and click on Code of Conduct (if they haven't found it already). Students need not read the Events Code of Conduct.

Day Two.

9. Discuss with peers. Ask students to compare and contrast the terms ethical, moral and legal. Do a person's values affect his/her morals? Do the common values of a group of people affect the group's code of ethics?

For example: May a client's statement to his/her attorney be repeated by the attorney to a third person?

Explanation: In most situations, one person could repeat what they are told by another person to a third person. They are not breaking a law.

An attorney-client relationship is unique however. All attorneys get a license from the state in order to be allowed to represent clients. Because attorneys value honesty from their clients, they have agreed to require all attorneys not to repeat what they are told. Attorney as a group, have made this an ethical rule of their profession. When you become an attorney, you have to accept this ethical rule.

Although it may be legal to repeat a client's statement, it would violate the attorney's ethical code of conduct to do it.

Pennsylvania attorneys receive their law license from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. If a client reports an attorney to the PA Supreme Court for breaking an ethical duty to that client, the PA Supreme Court will investigate the report. If he/she has broken their ethical code, they could be punished up to and including losing their law license.

10. Are any of you or your families members of an organization with formal memberships? Names of organizations? What are advantages to membership? Are there expected types of conduct? Examples of forbidden conduct? What can one member do if he/she thinks another member has done a forbidden act? Is there a group of persons who will handle the complaint and decide if a penalty will be imposed on the member?

11. Elements of Ethical Codes of Conduct: Students should copy this:

Values	Commonly held beliefs of significance to members
Expected conduct	Manners and routine actions seen favorably by members
Forbidden conduct	Manners and routine actions seen as hurtful or without purpose to members

Complaint process	Steps to be taken to bring alleged forbidden member conduct to the attention of the community of members
Trier of fact	Those members responsible to determine if a violation has occurred and if so, what sanction, if any, will be imposed on the guilty member
Sanction	Penalty or reduction of membership privileges

12. Next erase the right hand column. Ask students if any of them would want to be student members of ISTE?

Why or why not? Students explain with specific examples from ISTE Code of Conduct.

Based upon the ISTE Code of Conduct below, ask students what appears to be values student members share? (fill in right column of chart with student responses or these suggested responses)

Values	friendly, safe, supportive and harassment-free environment; no discrimination
Expected conduct	communicate professionally, handle dissent or disagreement civilly with open mind, respectful and open to alternate points of view.
Forbidden conduct	No harassment in real or virtual space, unethical discrimination of members and no sexual language or imagery.
Complaint process	File written complaint with ISTE Board of Directors at link in Code.
Trier of fact	ISTE Board of Directors.
Sanction	Suspend or expel ISTE members, perhaps without refund.

13. Discuss with peers. Go to authority, if necessary. Based upon the completed ISTE Code of Conduct chart above, could Darlene (Dilemma #1) use the Complaint process to respond to the harassment she

witnessed? What do you see are the pros/cons for her of taking these steps?

If students have not read the ISTE Code of Conduct, they should know they will be responsible in assessments to be familiar with its contents.

14. Dilemma #2: David is a student member of ISTE. Last night he was logged in to begin a zoom meeting with about 15 other ISTE student members on the ISTE Events Committee. Everyone in this Committee meeting was from Pennsylvania.

The purpose of this meeting was to plan an upcoming in-person ISTE conference.

Darlene, the chairperson, greeted everyone to the meeting except two girls who were each wearing a hijab. David is friends with both girls. Rona and Aina are both Muslim. Their families had recently emigrated from Afghanistan.

The chairperson divided the group into three breakout rooms with five kids in each room to plan the conference. Darlene assigned everyone except Rona and Aina to break out rooms.

While David was in his breakout room, he saw chat messages to everyone calling Rona and Aina names and making rude comments about their hijabs. The chairperson was included in those chat messages. Darlene did nothing to stop these chat messages.

David then received a chat message from Rona and Aina. They were both upset by Darlene's actions and the chat messages. They left the meeting.

David wants to be chairperson next year and doesn't want to upset Darlene and the other student members of the Events Committee.

Now David is mad. He doesn't know if he has any legal or ethical options? He doesn't know what he could do as a member of ISTE to address what happened to his two friends? He also doesn't know what could happen to Darlene and the other student members of the ISTE Events Committee?

15. Written Homework Assignment: What legal or ethical options does David have? Explain your answer in at least four complete sentences with one or more references to language in the ISTE Code of Conduct to support your argument.

Suggested response is "In Pennsylvania, Section 2709 a1 says a person cannot harass or bully a child on line. Ethically, one ISTE member cannot harass another ISTE member based upon ethnicity or any group identity according to the ISTE Code of Conduct. If David filed a complaint, he could explain that the Events Committee's chat messages specifically identified Rona and Aina and made rude comments about their hijabs. The ISTE Board of Directors could suspend or expel Darlene and the other Events Committee members involved as a result of his complaint."

16. Post assessment given. Report pre and post assessment scores.