

Internet Monitoring Study:

Statistics provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

- Over half (51%) of parents either do not have or do not know if they have software on their computer(s) that monitors where their teenager(s) go online and with whom they interact.
- 42% of parents do not review the content of what their teenager(s) read and/or type in chat rooms or via Instant Messaging.
- Teenagers who Instant Message use chat lingo to communicate and parents don't know the meanings of some of the most commonly used phrases. 57% don't know LOL (Laughing Out Loud), 68% don't know BRB (Be Right Back), and 92% don't know A/S/L (Age/Sex/Location).
- 95% of parents couldn't identify common chat room lingo that teenagers use to warn people they're chatting with that their parents are watching. Those phrases are POS (Parent Over Shoulder) and P911 (Parent Alert).
- Nearly three out of 10 (28%) of parents don't know or are not sure if their teens talk to strangers online.
- 30% of parents allow their teenagers to use the computer in private areas of the house such as a bedroom or a home office. Parents say they are more vigilant about where their teen(s) go online if the computer is in a public area of the household.
- 58% of parents surveyed say they review the content of what their teenager(s) read and/or type in chat rooms or via Instant Messaging; 42% do not.

Chat Abbreviations

From 'Teen Chat DeCoder' <http://www.teenchatdecoder.com/parental-lookup/teenchat-a.html>

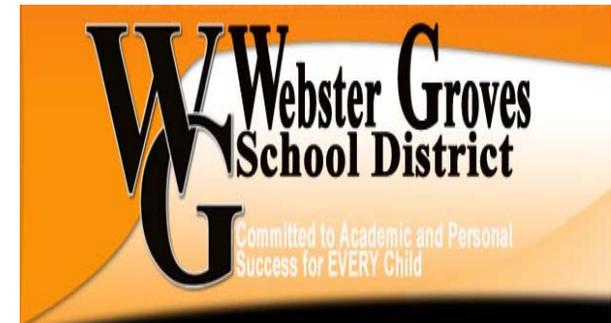
ASLP	Age, sex, location, picture
BF	Boyfriend
BRB	Be right back
LMIRL	Lets meet in real life
LOL	Laugh out loud
L8	Late
MUSM	Miss you so much
POS	Parent over shoulder
TAW	Teachers are watching
WTGP	Want to go private?

Family resources

Net Family News <http://www.netfamilynews.org/>
Sign up for digital newsletter to stay current on issues

Netsmartz <http://www.netsmartz.org/netparents.htm>
Parent information on Internet safety

SafeKids
Elementary <http://www.safekids.com>
High school <http://www.safeteens.com>



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The Internet is essential in today's classroom, careers, and lives

The Internet is a powerful tool for conducting research, learning, communicating, and collaborating with friends, experts, and informational agencies. It is our responsibility as parents / guardians and educators to give our children the information they need to make responsible choices.



HOW IS THE WEBSTER GROVES SCHOOL DISTRICT PROTECTING CHILDREN?

INTERNET FILTERING

As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), WGSD provides protection for our students when connected to the World Wide Web. Technology called a 'firewall' filters and

Safety Tips for Home—provided by NetSmartz.org

Clear, simple, easy-to-read house rules should be posted on or near the monitor. Create your own computer rules or print the [Internet safety pledge](#). The pledge can be signed by adults and children and should be periodically reviewed.

Look into safeguarding programs or options your online service provider might offer. These may include monitoring or filtering capabilities.

Always read a web site's privacy policy before giving any personal information. Also make sure that a web site offers a secure connection before giving credit-card information.

Web sites for children are not permitted to request personal information without a parent's permission. Talk to children about what personal information is and why you should never give it to people online.

If children use chat or e-mail, talk to them about never meeting in person with anyone they first "met" online.

Talk to children about not responding to offensive or dangerous e-mail, chat, or other communications. Report any such communication to local law enforcement. Do not delete the offensive or dangerous e-mail; turn off the monitor, and contact local law enforcement.

Keep the computer in the family room or another open area of your home.

Get informed about computers and the Internet. Visit the [resources](#) section to find additional information on Internet safety.

Let children show you what they can do online, and visit their favorite sites.

Have children use child-friendly search engines when completing homework.

Know who children are exchanging e-mail with, and only let them use chat areas when you can supervise. NetSmartz recommends limiting chat-room access to child-friendly chat sites.

Be aware of any other computers your child may be using.

Internet accounts should be in the parent's name with parents having the primary screenname, controlling passwords, and using blocking and/or filtering devices.

Children should not complete a profile for a service provider and children's screennames should be nondescript so as not to identify that the user is a child.

Talk to children about what to do if they see something that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. Show them how to turn off the monitor and emphasize that it's not their fault if they see something upsetting. Remind children to tell a trusted adult if they see something that bothers them online.

Consider using filtering or monitoring software for your computer. Filtering products that use whitelisting, which only allows a child access to a preapproved list of sites, are recommended for children in this age group. NetSmartz does not advocate using filters only; education is a key part of prevention. Visit the [resources](#) section for web sites that provide information on filtering or blocking software.

If you suspect online "stalking" or sexual exploitation of a child, report it to your local law-enforcement agency. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) has a system for identifying online predators and child pornographers and contributing to law-enforcement investigations. It's called the [CyberTipline](#)[®]. Leads forwarded to the site will be acknowledged and shared with the appropriate law-enforcement agency for investigation.