

TEXAS


EDUCATORS'

ETHICS TRAINING

Educator-Student Interaction,

Including Social Media

2



tea.texas.gov

---

---

---

---

---


---


---

---

Purpose

The session will focus on interactions between educators and students, with a special emphasis on the utilization of social/electronic media.





2

---

---

---

---

---


---


---

---

Stimulating Thinking

- How does social media influence my work with students?
- How do interactions with students influence laws and policies?





3

---

---

---


---

---

---


---

---



### Participants will

- articulate effective uses of social media to enhance student learning;
- gain an understanding of appropriate and inappropriate social media interactions;
- identify social media grooming actions used to initiate inappropriate teacher - student relationships; and
- make connections between social media utilization guidelines, recommendations, and educator misconduct consequences.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Positive Impact of Social Media

Enhancing Learning Outcomes



---

---

---


---

---


---

---

---



*How can the utilization of social media by educators cross serious teacher-student boundaries?*



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Social Media Boundary Crossings

What begins with an innocent string of social media communications (intentional or not) can soon lead to a strong emotional connection with a student.



TEA

7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## An Inappropriate Relationship Begins

**Voluntary statement given to law enforcement:**

*"I began playing Words With Friends with several students before the end of the school year, including Gabriella. I often chatted with students about the game. My conversations began innocently, but after school let out in June my conversations with Gabriella became more intense."*

(Name has been changed.)

TEA

8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## An Inappropriate Relationship Ends

**Voluntary statement given to law enforcement:**

*"I told my wife that I had an emotional relationship with Gabriella and it moved beyond an appropriate boundary between a teacher and student. My wife was angry and demanded that I terminate contact with Gabriella entirely. I then emailed Gabriella and asked her to not try and contact me or my wife and I apologized for any emotional harm I had caused her."*

(Name has been changed.)

TEA

9

---

---

---

---

---

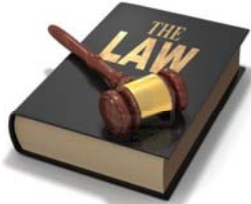
---

---

---

## Outcome of This Case

The teacher voluntarily surrendered his teaching certificate.



TEA

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Sentenced to 60 Years in Prison



TEA

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

15 times EVERY week in this country



TEA

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Is Social Media to Blame for Inappropriate Student-Teacher Relationships?



TEA

13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## The Impact of Social Media

In Texas, social media and text messaging continue to be the driving factors in the number of sexual misconduct cases investigated.



TEA

14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Technology Tools and Platforms



TEA

15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Social media leaves a digital footprint.**



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Video Scenario



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Video Scenario Debrief



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Sobering Statistics



---

---

---

---

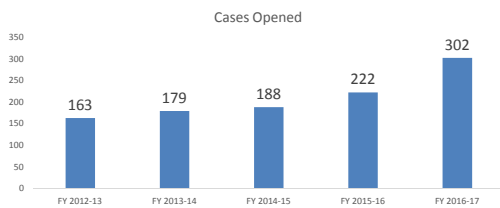
---

---

---

---

## Cases Opened on Inappropriate Relationships with a Student / Minor



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Treading on Dangerous Ground



---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



### Educators and Social Media

- Four out of five educators use social media for personal communication. However . . .
- More than 62% of educators surveyed have had minimal or no training in the area of interacting with students and parents through social media.

(University of Phoenix College of Education, 2015)

---

---

---

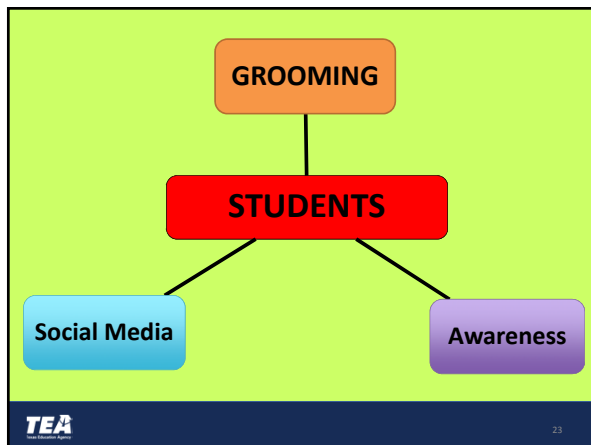
---

---

---

---

---



### Actions That Can Appear as Grooming Through the Use of Social Media



- Frequently calling or sending text messages just to check in
- Sending pictures, jokes, or information that is inappropriate
- Sending messages that are becoming increasingly friendly or sexual in nature
- Conducting social media interactions in secrecy

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Appropriate vs. Inappropriate



TEA

25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



TEA

26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



TEA

27

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

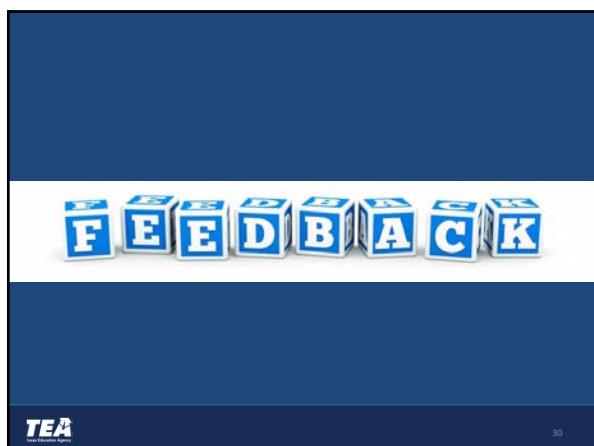
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

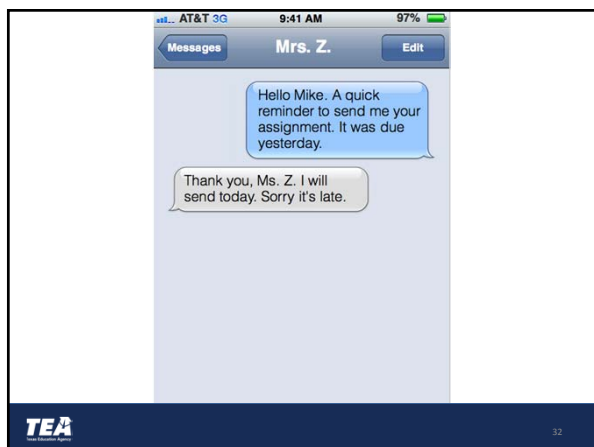
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

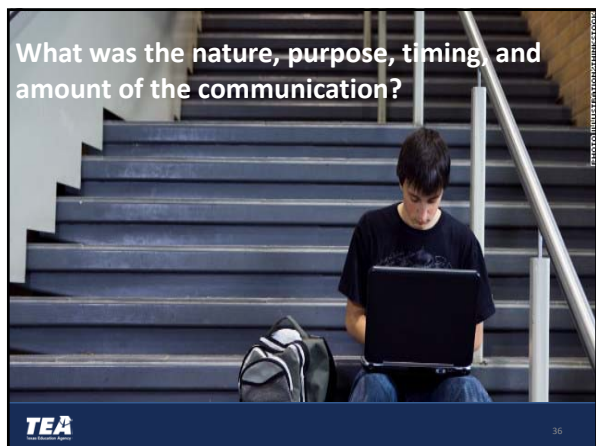
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Was the communication made openly, or did the educator attempt to conceal it?

SECRET

TEA

37

---

---

---

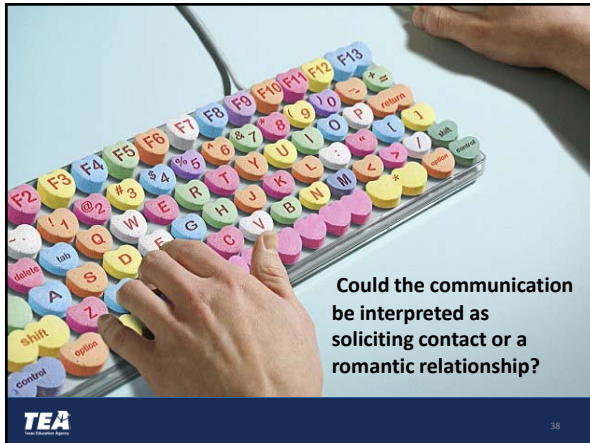
---

---

---

---

---



Could the communication be interpreted as soliciting contact or a romantic relationship?

TEA

38

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- Was the communication sexually explicit?
- Did it involve discussion of a sexual nature regarding either the educator or the student?

TEA

39

---

---

---

---

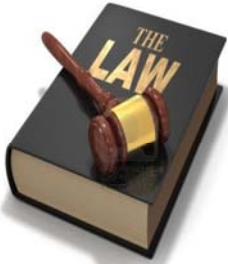
---

---

---

---

## The Law and the Consequences



- Loss of Career
- Loss of Freedom

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Utilization Guidelines

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Social Media Utilization Guidelines

- Be aware of what you post online. You represent not only yourself, but also your school district.
- Follow your district's policy for electronic and online communication.
- Be transparent by maintaining openness, visibility, and accountability.

(O'Donovan, 2012)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Social Media Utilization Guidelines

- Consider all electronic communication to be accessible and a matter of record.
- Choose appropriate subject matter and words that are courteous, grammatically correct, and professional.

(O'Donovan, 2012)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Would your online account pass muster?



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# OUTCOMES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Strategies to Decrease Incidents

- Provide educator ethics training that focuses on appropriate use of social media.
- Strengthen and communicate district social media utilization policies and guidelines.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Strategies to Decrease Incidents

- Report suspected incidents consistently and in a timely manner.
- Expand accountability for withholding information.
- Acknowledge that schools will enforce a zero-tolerance policy.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PERFORMANCE TASK

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- Bacon-Blood, L. (2015, January). Louisiana no. 3 for inappropriate teacher-student relationships, former U.S. education official says. *The Times-Picayune*. Retrieved from [http://www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2015/01/louisiana\\_no\\_3\\_for\\_inappropriate\\_teacher-student\\_relationships\\_former\\_us\\_education\\_official\\_says.html](http://www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2015/01/louisiana_no_3_for_inappropriate_teacher-student_relationships_former_us_education_official_says.html)
- Miller, N. (2016, May). Jay Curne receives sentence of 60 years in prison. *Odessa American Online*. Retrieved from <http://www.ooa.com/news/Dee-Burns-receives-sentence-28b9a59e-1203-11e6-911e-8bd486d62d3.htm>
- Niederberger, M. (2015, May). Schools tighten social media contacts. *The Washington Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/may/30/schools-tighten-teacher-student-social-media-contacts/?page=all>
- O'Donovan, E. (2012, July/August). Social media: Guidelines for school administrators. *District Administration*. Retrieved from <http://www.districtadministration.com/article/social-media-guidelines-school-administrators>
- Perrin, A. (2015, October). *Social Media Usage: 2005–2015*. Pew Research Center. Retrieved from [http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/10/PI\\_2015-10-08\\_Social-Media-Usage-2005-2015\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/10/PI_2015-10-08_Social-Media-Usage-2005-2015_FINAL.pdf)
- Shoop, R. *Sexual Exploitation in Schools: How to Spot It and Stop It*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.
- Simpson, M. (2010). Social networking nightmares. *NEA Office of General Counsel*. Retrieved from <http://www.nea.org/home/38324.htm>

Stierlin, M. (2016, February). Bureaucracy plate the digital image. *Oldras American Online*. Retrieved from <http://www.oldsras.com/news/2016/02/01/bureaucracy-plate-the-digital-image/>

Stiner, L. (2012, October). Is social media to blame for inappropriate student teacher relationships? *AACU News & The Panhandle Spirit*. Retrieved from <http://www.aacu.org/news/2012/10/01/social-media-to-blame-for-inappropriate-student-teacher-relationships>

Texas Education Agency. (2016). *Texas Administrative Code: Chapter 242.7*. Retrieved from