



# i-SAFE and Parents Building Cyber-Safe Communities

## Education Makes the Difference

The Internet and the online experience have changed. No longer are users—especially kids and teens—satisfied with a Web site that merely allows them to retrieve information. The Web is now highly interactive; a user can go to a site to contribute content. MySpace, YouTube, and Wikipedia are popular examples, and you can name dozens of others. Virtual worlds, people search engines, and street-view mapping sites are effective when the user takes control of the online experience and interacts within the site. Thanks to advances in technology, connecting to the Internet can happen anywhere by anyone with a cell phone or a game console. Therefore, educating children about the safe and responsible use of this technology must also advance.

Founded in 1998, i-SAFE has received bipartisan support in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate. Our world-class e-Safety curriculum and other materials empower students to safely and responsibly use the Internet AND related technology, especially in this new online world where a computer to access the Internet is no longer required.

Today's children have grown up with the Internet as an integral part of society, and many are much more Internet savvy than their parents. Unfortunately, this proliferation of Internet use among kids and teens has exposed them to a very dark side of the World Wide Web. The anonymity of the Internet and ease in creating different identities have opened up entire new avenues for cyber bullies and predators, identity thieves, hackers, and scammers. Children are tempted to illegally pirate music, video, and software or plagiarize someone else's work to complete a homework assignment. Thirty-five percent (35%) of 5-12 graders said their parents would disapprove or punish them if they knew about all their Internet activities.\* Parents must take an interest in what their children are doing online. Education makes the difference!

\*(2006-2007 National Assessment Center Pre-Assessment Student Survey)



## What Can I Do?

**Get involved** in the i-PARENT Campaign – a nationwide initiative of parents and concerned citizens who advocate for e-Safety education in schools, and raise e-Safety awareness in their neighborhoods and at home.

**Get trained** i-SAFE educates parents and concerned adults over the age of 50 on e-Safety topics and certifies them to train other parents.

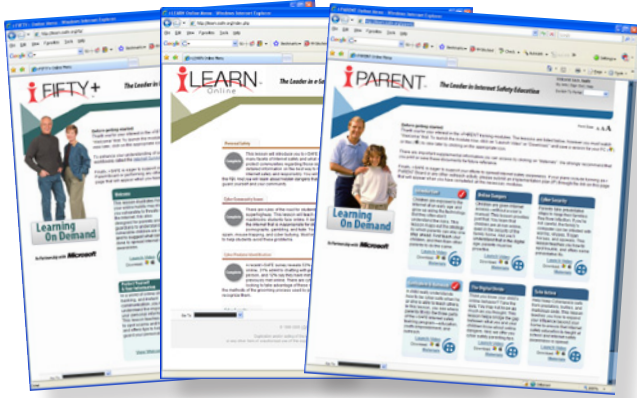
**Get together** spread e-Safety awareness by conducting Parent Night Presentations. Or, join with other parent and create an i-PARENT Board.

## The i-PARENT Board

A growing movement in communities across the country, i-PARENT Boards are groups of parents and parent advocates either independent or within an existing parent-teacher organization that choose to adopt e-Safety education as a special project. These parents are committed to educate and promote e-Safety education at home and at school. i-SAFE makes it simple to start an i-PARENT Board (see reverse) and provides access to materials and resources to carry out your i-PARENT Board's e-Safety strategy.

## i-LEARN Online Training Virtual Training Academy

i-SAFE offers parents and concerned adults of all ages e-Safety education and training online. i-PARENT and i-FIFTY+ are part of i-LEARN Online, a series of informative videos that provide e-Safety education for a cyber-safe home and community. In addition, the Virtual Training Academy (VTA) offers live training sessions over the Internet with a live host to provide adults information and to answer questions about how to best protect families, as well as to be certified to educate others in the community about e-Safety issues.



## Starting an i-PARENT Board

Forming an i-PARENT Board is one of the most effective ways a community can participate in e-Safety initiatives. i-PARENT Boards are comprised of a group of dedicated adults who want to train others in their community and advocate incorporating i-SAFE curriculum in schools. Examples of i-PARENT Board activities include distributing e-Safety tip sheets, hosting an information table at a local event, implementing the i-Adopt-A-School Program, conducting i-PARENT trainings and programs for local civic and parent organizations, and teaming with i-MENTORS to promote e-Safety education among students.

The strategy for protecting children from online victimization and promoting safe and responsible online use does not end in the classroom. i-PARENT Board members must actively work together to educate parents and the community as a whole.

Once a director is selected, follow these steps to get your i-PARENT Board started:

### 1) Identify and invite community members and organizations to join your i-PARENT Board.

Full community participation and representation of all viewpoints is essential to the success of the i-PARENT Board. The membership of an i-PARENT Board is usually made up of people who represent the various interests of the community. These may include local citizens, business leaders, parents, grandparents, and/or local politicians.

### 2) Set your i-PARENT Board meeting date and location.

A community meeting on e-Safety should take place with the largest audience possible. The date should be selected in order that local policymakers or elected officials can attend. Identify days for which to aim, and be prepared to adjust that date as you talk with partner organizations, speakers, and the potential site. The location for your event will set the tone for the forum.

### 3) Invite local policy makers.

Inviting local policy makers to your event is a great opportunity to attract a larger audience. More importantly, your event will provide local policy makers an opportunity to learn about the importance of e-Safety issues directly from their constituents.

### 4) Attract local media.

Securing media to attend your meeting can boost your effort to raise awareness concerning online safety.

### 5) Conduct your i-PARENT Board meeting.

A representative from the i-PARENT Board should act as a moderator. The meeting should be an opportunity for i-PARENT Board members to get to know each other and decide on a course of action.

**Help i-SAFE protect our most valuable natural resource and future, our children. Volunteer your time by joining the i-PARENT Campaign, or to make a donation to the i-SAFE Foundation go to [www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org).**