

## AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,  
6 providing for Internet safety education curriculum.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 1555. Internet Safety Education Curriculum.--(a)  
13 The department, in consultation with the Office of Attorney  
14 General, shall establish an age-appropriate curriculum for  
15 Internet safety instruction of students in kindergarten through  
16 grade twelve. Beginning with the school year that commences  
17 after the effective date of this section, a school district  
18 shall incorporate into the school curriculum a component on  
19 Internet safety to be taught at least once each school year to

1 students in kindergarten through grade twelve. The school board  
2 shall determine the scope and duration of the unit of  
3 instruction. The age-appropriate unit of instruction may be  
4 incorporated into the current courses of study regularly taught  
5 in the district's schools, as determined by the school board.  
6 The instruction shall be chosen from a menu of options developed  
7 by the department, which shall include, but not be limited to,  
8 the following topics:

9 (1) Safe and responsible use of social networking websites,  
10 chat rooms, e-mail, bulletin boards, instant messaging and other  
11 means of communication on the Internet.

12 (2) Recognizing, avoiding and reporting online solicitations  
13 of students, their classmates and their friends by sexual  
14 predators.

15 (3) Risks of transmitting personal information on the  
16 Internet.

17 (4) Recognizing and avoiding unsolicited or deceptive  
18 communications received online.

19 (5) Recognizing and reporting online harassment and cyber  
20 bullying.

21 (6) Reporting illegal activities and communications on the  
22 Internet.

23 (7) Copyright laws on written materials, photographs, music  
24 and video.

25 (b) The department may develop curricula to serve the  
26 instructional needs of multiple grades of students, such as one  
27 curriculum for elementary school students, one curriculum for  
28 middle school students and one curriculum for high school  
29 students.

30 (c) In developing the Internet safety education curriculum,

1 the department shall take into consideration similar curricula  
2 in other states and other curricular materials suggested by  
3 education experts, child psychologists or technology companies  
4 that work on child online safety issues. The department shall  
5 also conduct a thorough review of publicly available materials  
6 on the topics of safe online communications, privacy protection,  
7 cyber bullying, viewing inappropriate material, file-sharing and  
8 the importance of open communications with responsible adults.  
9 The department shall make such resource materials that it deems  
10 appropriate available on its publicly accessible Internet  
11 website.

12 (d) Curricula devised in accordance with subsection (a)  
13 shall be developed within six (6) months of the effective date  
14 of this section.

15 (e) A parent or legal guardian of a student who is under  
16 eighteen (18) years of age, within a reasonable period of time  
17 after the request is made, shall be permitted to examine the  
18 Internet safety curriculum instructional materials at the school  
19 in which the student is enrolled.

20 (f) At the request of a parent or guardian, a student shall  
21 be excused from all or parts of the Internet safety curriculum  
22 instruction. The principal shall notify all parents or guardians  
23 of their ability to withdraw their children from instruction in  
24 the curriculum by returning a signed opt-out form.

25 (g) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
26 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

27 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
28 Commonwealth.

29 "Office of Attorney General." The Office of Attorney General  
30 of the Commonwealth.

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.