



# Family Safe Computers LLC

[www.FamilySafeComputers.org](http://www.FamilySafeComputers.org)

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## SCHOOLS WORK TO PROMOTE INTERNET SAFETY

The **[SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME]** is taking part in an initiative to promote Internet safety in the local community. September 27<sup>th</sup> is Internet Safety Day and has been adopted by several counties and schools across the state.

With increasing negative stories of teen and child involvement in activities like sexting, cyber bullying, chat rooms, predators and social networking many feel there is a need for community awareness. "This must start with parents and guardians taking the initiative to monitor what their kids are doing online," says Internet Safety Day organizer Brian Rice of Ohio based Family Safe Computers.

According to an Internet teen survey conducted in May by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 72% of 13- to 18-year olds have a personal profile on sites such as MySpace or Facebook. "The majority of teens believe posting personal information or photos on a public blog or social networking site is unsafe. However 62% of them have posted photos of themselves" and "about 2 in 5 teens say they tell their parents very little or nothing about what they do and where they go online." Unfortunately, with no parental guidance many are forced to fend for themselves online and are at high risk of becoming a statistic of Internet crime.

Internet Safety Day is an awareness day asking parents to sit down with their children at the computer and learn what they do online. Hopefully this will start a continued dialog where parents become more involved in their children's online activities.

For parents who feel a little intimidated by technology Rice suggests downloading the free updated Parent Guide at [www.InternetSafetyDay.com](http://www.InternetSafetyDay.com) for a basic crash course on what parents need to know. Also on the website, parents can join the thousands of others who have already pledged to talk with their child or teen about Internet Safety on September 27<sup>th</sup>. "Regardless of your kids technology skills it still comes down to the need for parental guidance and many times it is just common sense," Rice states. Take the first step in protecting your children online by visiting [www.InternetSafetyDay.com](http://www.InternetSafetyDay.com).

### About Family Safe Computers

Family Safe Computers, INC. is a non-profit organization that promotes Internet safety and works to bridge the technology gap between parents and their children. They offer free Internet safety information that is easy to understand and provides parents with the tools and encouragement to talk with their children. You can learn more at [www.FamilySafeComputers.org](http://www.FamilySafeComputers.org).

More info about statistics cited:

[http://www.cox.com/takecharge/safe\\_teens\\_2009/media/2009\\_teen\\_survey\\_internet\\_and\\_wireless\\_safety.pdf](http://www.cox.com/takecharge/safe_teens_2009/media/2009_teen_survey_internet_and_wireless_safety.pdf)

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