To: Superintendents, Principals, CTE Directors

From: Amanda McCammon, Chief of Workforce and STEM Alliances
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Subject: Cyberbullying Awareness

Background

October is National Bullying/Cyberbullying Prevention Month.

During the 2017-2018 school year, there were 5,604 confirmed bullying incidents in Indiana schools. Of those, 44 percent of the incidents were categorized as "written/electronic" incidents. This is more than a 600 percent increase in the number of written/electronic incidents as compared to the 2016-2017 school year (from bullying report). Bullying data is publicly available.

No later than October 15 of each year, every public school shall provide age appropriate, research based instruction as provided under IC 5-2-10.1-12(d)(1) focusing on bullying prevention for all students in grades 1 through 12.

Guidance

There are a variety of bullying/cyberbullying resources available on the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) website provided by the Office of School Safety and the Office of Student Services.

For general information regarding cyberbullying, see "Common Sense on Cyberbullying" from Common Sense Media and additional resources from StopBullying.gov.

Several K-8 computer science standards address cyberbullying and digital safety including:
- **K-2.IC.1** Practice responsible digital citizenship (legal and ethical behaviors) in the use of technology.
- **K-2.IC.2** Identify positive and negative social and ethical behaviors for using technology.

- **3-5.IC.1** Discuss basic issues related to responsible use of technology and information, and the consequences of inappropriate use.
- **3-5.IC.2** Identify the impact of technology (e.g., social networking, cyberbullying, mobile computing and communication, web technologies, cybersecurity, and virtualization) on personal life and society.
- **6-8.IC.1** Exhibit legal and ethical behaviors when using technology and information and discuss the consequences of misuse.
- **6-8.IC.2** Analyze the positive and negative impacts of technology on one's personal life, society, and our culture.

Cyberbullying lessons and resources for all grade levels are available from Common Sense Media's Cyberbullying Toolkit.

For questions related to cyberbullying, digital safety, or the resources listed above, contact the appropriate IDOE staff member listed below:

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