

Being Up To Date On Technology Laws In The School

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Children are entitled to protection and teachers must be advocates for them. If a police officer or attorney is not up to date with all of the laws then they cannot fully assist and protect you. This is the same with teachers in the classroom. A teacher must be very aware of the rules relating to technology in order to safeguard the students. Early childhood teachers in particular should take note of laws such as COPPA. COPPA is the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. It was created to help protect children whom are younger than 13 when engaged in online activities. It's designed to keep anyone from getting a child's personal information without a parent knowing about it and agreeing to it first.

According to Education World, "Teachers should make sure that the sites their students visit have prominently displayed, clearly stated privacy policies that meet COPPA's requirements. They should also educate their students about online safety and privacy issues. " However, if a teacher is unaware of these privacy policies they will have not be able to meet these privacy issues, leaving the child vulnerable. In order for a teacher to take action to shield the child, the first step is becoming educated.

When a teacher learns what the laws and policies are for Internet safety they are not only protecting their students from potential dangers, they are providing a shield for themselves for potential dangers. If a teacher is uninformed of the issues, they can bring self harm. According to one law student at Boston College, "Education officials around the country are grappling with issues surrounding public school teachers' use of social media.

Typically concerned that social media makes it easier for teachers to engage in inappropriate communications with their students, officials have adopted guidelines that prohibit K-12 teachers from using social media to communicate with their students for non-curricular purposes. In addition, teachers are frequently punished for content they or others post on social media even when their students and the school community were not the intended audience.” If a teacher is oblivious of the laws and policies, though they may not have ill intentions, they can put themselves in jeopardy, which very likely result in heavy consequences.

When a teacher is conscious of the laws they are able to uphold the policies and help to enforce these policies with the school to work as a team. Each state has different laws and therefore, it is critical to be aware of the laws as the teacher moves. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, “Ohio Requires internet- or computer-based community schools to use a filtering device or install filtering software that protects against Internet access to materials that are obscene or harmful to juveniles. Requires the schools to provide free filtering devices or software to students who work from home.” Teacher and school focusing on these type of laws will create a sound and safer environment for all involved.

It is critical to keep in mind that these laws are always changing and so is technology and therefore, it is imperative that teachers stay current with technology and technology laws. Without self-educating oneself on this, there can be not protection, no safety net for the teacher and more importantly, the student. Being an advocate is being up to date on technology laws as a teacher.

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