



Text messaging has become the primary way that teens reach their friends. Half of teens send 50 or more text messages a day, or 1,500 texts a month, and one in three send more than 100 texts a day, or more than 3,000 texts a month. (Pew Internet, Teens and Mobile Phones, 2010)

Cybersafety in Georgia

a joint project of the following:

- **Georgia Bureau of Investigation**
- **Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA)**
- **Georgia Department of Education**
- **Georgia Public Broadcasting**

Websites:

www.familyinternet.info

www.myspace.com/ga_csi_icac

www.facebook.com/georgia.cybersafety

**Facebook Group:
Georgia Cybersafety Initiative**

[Twitter.com/gacsi](https://twitter.com/gacsi)

www.delicious.com/GaCSI

For further information, visit our website

www.gaicac.us

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Georgia CyberSafety Initiative

Georgia Cybersafety Initiative

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INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (ICAC)

Cybersafety for children is a growing problem in Georgia and throughout the U.S. The types of investigations conducted by the GBI include child pornography, child enticement, and child molestation. With emerging technologies (e.g., smartphones), the dangers to children increase for commercial exploitation, exposure to inappropriate materials, harassment, bullying, identity theft, gambling and cheating.

New communication technologies pose a unique challenge to parents, teachers and school administrators because students often know more about using these technologies than adults. Although many schools have electronic security in place, with the advent of cell phones and other internet capable devices, the students are able to bypass the best electronic security system that a school may have. Education that would prepare them to make wise choices when using technology is key in the process of building a generation of technology users that are productive and safe. This can only be accomplished through consistent messages from the schools and from the homes.

Website:

Parents and students can find information on our website. Links for tools (such as filters), use agreements, and resources are located on our site.

www.familyinternet.info

Plan:

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, and Georgia Public Broadcasting are working together to provide a statewide program to encourage smart and ethical digital citizenship of our children. The plan is modeled after the NetSafe Program from New Zealand and built on a three-legged stool approach:

- **Policies and procedures:**
an infrastructure of policy, procedures and signed student and staff use agreements with active enforcement
- **Technologies:**
an effective digital security system
- **Awareness modules:**
a comprehensive cybersafety education program for teachers, parents, students, counselors, etc.

The resources provided by the Department of Education for cybersafety, Georgia's NetSafe Kit, can be found at <http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/cybersafety.aspx>

Outcome:

Successful campaign to alter the culture and behavior of children online

Educated communities, resulting in confident, safer, ethical users of current devices who

- Understand technology and how it works
- Use critical thinking
- Have ethical online behavior
- Make safer choices

Replicable and comprehensive model for the nation



Training for Presenters:

The **Cybersafety Presenter Certification Training** is required for certification of volunteer presenters in the **Community Outreach** portion of GaCSI. It is designed to provide school resource officers, law enforcement officers, or educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide presentations to elementary, middle, and high schools students and their parents. It consists of eight online modules, completed in two weeks, and one face to face class. Law Enforcement participants will receive POST credit for 24 hours. K-12 educators will receive 2 PLUs.

TOPICS

**Personal Information Online
Cybersafety Risks and Misuses
Predator and Target Profiles
Trends
Devices
Technical Solutions
Cybersafety Suggestions**

Community Presentations:

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation /Georgia ICAC Task Force and The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) have worked collaboratively to implement a statewide program. This program has trained volunteers to give classes and presentations to community and parent groups as needed.

**Presentation Requests
can be made through the website**

www.gaicac.us

**There are risks and misuses to understand,
but as adults, we MUST not forget
how clever and amazing our children are
as native users of this
new virtual environment.**

**Let's guide them to make wise choices,
while we marvel at their abilities!**