

Implementing Secure It Day

Thank you for facilitating and supporting your students' participation in Secure It Day. Today's youth commonly use multiple technological devices and spend much of their time on websites, games, social media and text/video chat. With their expansive online presence, youth need to think critically about the accounts they create online, including their privacy settings and the content they reveal. While the information we share online can never be guaranteed private, we can help students take steps to make their online accounts more secure. Secure It Day is an opportunity for students to take inventory of their online accounts and remedy vulnerable areas.

How Do I Implement Secure It Day at My School?

We suggest that you have students complete the appropriate account inventory worksheets for their grade level (see below). Other resources can be used to complement the lesson, including:

- <https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/socialmedia#recommendedresources>
- <http://www.webwise.ie/category/teachers/>

The following site is helpful for teachers, parents and adults concerned with online privacy:

- <https://www.common sense media.org/privacy-and-internet-safety>

We also encourage you to print and display the "Secure It Day Posters" to promote these activities throughout your school community.

Middle School & High School

For Middle and High School levels, we suggest that the "Online Account Inventory" serve as a homework assignment for students, as social media may not be accessible at school. Parents should be encouraged to review their children's settings.

Elementary School

For the Elementary School level, we suggest that Secure It Day be implemented over the course of two days. On the first day, students should complete the "Online Accounts and Activity Review." On the second day, students should start the "Online and Gaming Profile Review" as a classroom activity with follow-up at home.

How Can I Gauge the Effectiveness of Secure It Day?

The effectiveness of Secure It Day will be reflected through student enthusiasm, participation and fewer complaints of "being hacked." Follow-up conversations with students in the classroom and at home can continue to encourage positive online decision making, as well as assist in connecting positive outcomes with the securing of their online accounts.

Why Implement a Secure It Day?

To better understand how youth are using technology, the Office of the Attorney General conducted an anonymous survey of Illinois students in grades 3-8 during the Spring of 2014. Through the survey, students shared how new technologies, including gaming devices and apps, are shaping their lives and their interactions with parents, peers and strangers. From this we learned that youth seek privacy and a sense of independence, but have not fully embraced online privacy settings.

- 73% of students believe that what they post online can impact their future
- 40% believe that content posted within their social networking site (Instagram, Facebook, etc.) is private
- 30% do not use privacy settings to limit what others can see about them online
- 67% are not concerned with the amount of information about themselves online
- 48% do not read the terms of service agreement when creating an online account

These statistics show that youth are still learning how to safely and securely connect and share information online. Despite this learning curve, more than 75 percent of Illinois youth report that they go to teachers or other trusted adults (besides parents) if they have a problem online. It's vital that we keep these conversations going to help youth have safer online experiences. Please join us.