

# DIGITAL DRAMA



Digital drama is a new age phrase that refers to forms of abuse and violence among teens in the technology world.

The National Crime Prevention Council's definition of cyber-bullying is "when the internet, cell phones or other devices are used to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person." [2] StopCyberbullying.org, an expert organization dedicated to internet safety, security and privacy, defines cyberbullying as: "a situation when a child, tween or teen is repeatedly 'tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted' by another child or teenager using text messaging, email, instant messaging or any other type of digital technology.

Cyber-bullying can be as simple as continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender, but it may also include threats, sexual remarks, pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech), ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact aimed at humiliation.

Cyber-bullies may disclose victims' personal data (e.g. real name, address, or workplace/schools) at websites or forums or may pose as the identity of a victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them. Some cyberbullies may also send threatening and harassing emails and instant messages to the victims, while others post rumors or gossip and instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target.

**Though the use of sexual remarks and threats are sometimes present in cyber-bullying, it is not the same as sexual harassment and does not necessarily involve sexual predators.**

The reluctance youth have in telling an authority figure about instances of cyber-bullying has led to fatal outcomes. At least three children between the ages of 12 and 13 have committed suicide due to depression brought on by cyber-bullying, according to reports by USA Today and the Baltimore Examiner.



## **STOP, BLOCK, & TELL!**

**If you are targeted by a cyberbully:**

- STOP!** Don't do anything. Take 5! to calm down.
- BLOCK!** Block the cyberbully or limit all communications to those on your buddy list.
- TELL!** Tell a trusted adult, you don't have to face this alone. Report cyberbullying to [wiredsafety.org](http://wiredsafety.org)

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### *Your Right to File a Complaint*

The policy of Texas ISD is that all students and employees be free from bullying, sexual harassment, dating violence, and sexual violence. All charges of bullying, sexual harassment, dating violence, and sexual violence are to be taken very seriously by students, faculty, staff, administration, and parents/guardians. The District will make every reasonable effort to handle and respond to every charge and complaint filed by students and employees in a fair, thorough, and just manner. Every reasonable effort will be made to protect the due process rights of all victims and all alleged perpetrators.