

Executive Summary: Library Curriculum Additions Proposal - Digital Citizenship

This proposal seeks formal approval to integrate Digital Citizenship lessons into the library classes for Highland Elementary and Monroe Center Grade School libraries. Following a presentation to the Education Committee on March 25th, this initiative is being brought to the full Board to ensure our students are equipped with the skills necessary for today's digital world.

The primary goal is to obtain approval to include these essential topics in the library curriculum. While specific resources have been identified for initial use, the library department maintains the flexibility to update or replace these materials as more effective resources become available.

Alignment and Standards

The proposed lessons are strategically aligned with recognized educational benchmarks to ensure academic rigor and relevance:

- I-SAIL (Illinois Standards Aligned Instruction for Libraries): Specifically Standard 3, which focuses on Digital Literacy.
- AASL Standards: Aligning with national library standards for student growth and inquiry.
- Key Focus: Understanding the impact of an online presence while maintaining privacy and security.

Proposed Curriculum Focus by Grade Level

Grades K–2: Foundational Safety

- Safety Online: Teaching students to only visit known sites and to never meet online friends in person.
- Privacy: Emphasizing the protection of personal information such as addresses and passwords.
- Kindness: Introducing the concept of being hurtful vs. kind and asking permission before sharing stories about others.

Grades 3–5: Responsible Participation

- Online Etiquette: Encouraging students to think before they post and to avoid responding to or forwarding mean messages.
- Cyberbullying: Training students to recognize the signs of bullying and establishing clear reporting channels to trusted adults and the school counselor.
- Advanced Security: Providing practical tips for creating secure passwords and choosing safe screen names.

Resource Strategy

The library currently follows the I-SAIL standards for lesson development and will begin including features from the Library Skills: Year Long Bundle which includes over 200 activities and digital slideshows. However, the request for approval is for the curriculum integration itself, allowing the District Librarian to remain adaptive and select the best possible materials to meet these learning standards over time.

Conclusion

The administration recommends the Board of Education consider the approval of the addition of digital citizenship to the elementary library curriculum. This will ensure that students transition from passive technology users to responsible, secure, and respectful digital citizens.