

# Watch Your Step in Cyberspace!

As a teen and during your college years, you likely used Facebook and other forms of social media routinely to communicate with family and friends. Nothing wrong with that—but when you enter your own classroom, you will face more scrutiny. Here is some advice on surviving in cyberspace as a public educator:

- Know your school system’s Internet and social networking policies.
- Assume that nothing you post is private. Put up only material you’d be comfortable seeing on the front page of your local paper.
- Stop and think before you post or hit “send.” You’re responsible for what you post.
- Maintain professional boundaries in cyberspace, just as you do in person.
- Don’t accept friend requests from current or potential students or their family members.
- Never post any negative information about your students, co-workers or administrators.
- Keep personal information private!
- Remember that a deleted file, including an e-mail message, can often be recovered.
- Google your name periodically to check what’s out there online about you.
- Always use good judgment and common sense.

