

Keeping up-to-date with your child's online behavior



With the widespread use of smartphones among preteens and teens, the district is finding a number of mobile apps that are a distraction in the classroom and are being used for cyberbullying, sexting and accessing pornography, all of which are prohibited in schools.

New apps and technologies can make it especially difficult to keep track of online interactions and behavior. We strongly recommend that all parents be proactive in monitoring smartphone use. **With that in mind, here are some popular apps among teens that parents should be aware of:**



Kik
Instant messaging app that acts as a free texting app; no parental controls; becoming a common avenue for sexting



Ask.fm
Allows users to ask questions from other Ask.fm users with the option of anonymity; often used for cyberbullying



Tumblr
"Microblogging" service that allows users create content and post media on a short-form blog; high amount of pornographic material



Tinder
Online dating app; allows users 12+; intended to match users in a geographic area for dates



Instagram
Adult content can appear frequently on this photo and video sharing app used for many major social networks



Facebook
While Facebook does restrict pornographic material, links from posts use Facebook's in-app browser, which bypasses restricted browsers and can lead users to pornographic websites



Snapchat
Photo messaging app; users take photos, record videos, add text and drawings, and send them to recipients with a set time limit for how long recipients can view their "Snaps" (1 to 10 seconds), after which they will be hidden from the recipient's device and deleted from servers



Vine
Twitter app that allows users to create and share six-second videos; Twitter raised minimum age limit to 17+ for Vine after pornographic clips began appearing



Keek
Allows users to upload video status updates and share video content through major social media networks; no privacy settings



Whisper
Users submit anonymous questions or confessions as a text over a picture; other users are allowed to comment and **private message**; carries a 17+ rating



Twitter
Another network with worldwide popularity, Twitter is also liable to contain adult and other inappropriate content in many forms; in-app browser allows users to bypass restricted Internet browsers