



## Protecting Children Online

*For all the great benefits the Internet delivers, it can also pose risks to people who are most vulnerable in society—especially children. Even kids who think they can handle anything. Verizon takes the issue of Internet safety and responsible online behavior very seriously. That's why we are engaged in wide-ranging programs to alert people to the risks, help parents keep their children safe, and help law enforcement preserve a safe and healthy internet.*

### Reaching out to the Community

On December 4, 2006 New Hampshire Governor John Lynch and the Crimes against Children Research Center hosted a Town Meeting sponsored by Verizon at the University of New Hampshire to discuss how to create and preserve a safe and healthy Internet environment for children.

At this gathering—our “Partnership for a Child Safe Internet”—we brought leaders from law enforcement, business, education, government, and non-profit groups together to discuss with the challenges of delivering a child-safe Internet and the next steps in the state’s campaign to advance Internet safety. Other state forums are planned throughout 2007. Speakers at the December 4 session included: Kelly Ayotte, Attorney General, State of NH; Lyonel Tracey, NH Commissioner of Education; Michael Magnant, Chief of Police for Portsmouth, NH; Thomas Dailey, General Counsel—Verizon Online; and Dennis R. Shaw, Chief Operating Officer, iSAFE.

### Empowering Parents

Verizon participates in the Parental Empowerment Alliance, a coalition of leading companies representing five sectors of industry—ISPs, social networking sites, user-generated content providers, new digital media providers, and wireless providers—with the goal of developing industry best practices in parental empowerment. A key component of the project is creating yearly benchmark reports to detail progress on the key indicators noted above. The project also serves as a forum for industry dialogue and as a channel of communication between industry and leading experts in civil society and academia.

### Combating Child Porn

Verizon is taking part in an industry coalition with AOL, NCMEC, and others to:

- Research child exploitation threats by evaluating the specific and emerging technologies used by child predators to exploit children and conceal predatory activity;
- Develop and implement technology solutions by identifying existing and new technologies that can detect and disrupt the distribution of known images of child exploitation;
- Improve knowledge sharing by establishing a centralized clearinghouse that network operators may use on a voluntary basis to combat child pornography; and
- Improve law enforcement tools by researching and developing tools for law enforcement to assist in the location and identification of predators and distributors of child pornography.

### Researching Kids’ Online Habits

Verizon is collaborating with MySpace and Peter Grunwald & Associates to survey students, parents, and school administrators about social networking sites, i.e., how students use them, what parents know about them, and how school districts are dealing with them. The goal is to present results at an upcoming National School Boards Association technology meeting.

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