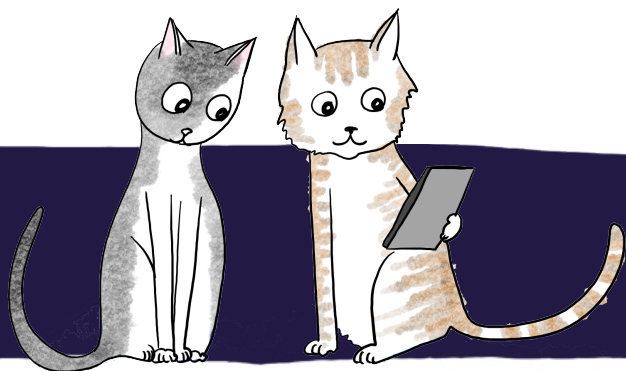


# EDUCATOR RESOURCES ON SEXTORTION.



**“ WE COULD BRING IT TO THE SCHOOL.**  
THIS IS TALKING ABOUT AN IMPORTANT TOPIC, BUT IT ISN'T SUPER HEAVY  
AND WOULDN'T BE BAD FOR THE CLASSROOM. IT WOULD BE VALUABLE FOR  
SCHOOL COUNSELORS.

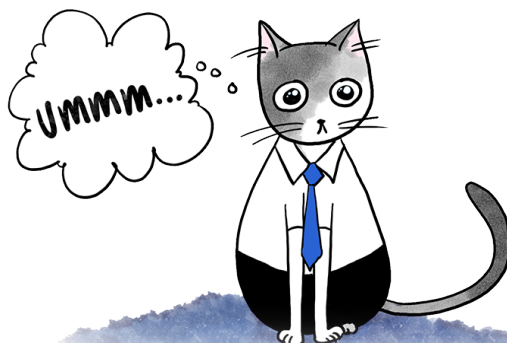
- Teen Council Member

## **THE CLASSROOM IS A SAFE SPACE, AND WE WANT TO HELP YOU KEEP IT THAT WAY.**

You play an important role in students' lives and as new threats emerge, it is important to stay ahead of the trends. Teens clearly told us that you are often the first line of defense.

### **01 Decide how you will handle disclosures.**

As a trusted adult in many students' lives, there is a chance you will come across situations involving images legally considered child pornography, and you are required by law to report certain situations related to child abuse. Before you come across these situations, make sure you understand the laws and your school policies around mandatory reporting. The first priority is always to keep students safe, and that can require different actions depending on the situation.



# YOUR NEXT STEPS

LEARN MORE AND TALK ABOUT IT.

## **02** Develop a script to guide conversation.

We've seen some educators create a script to guide conversations, and keep students aware of the implications of what they're saying. Here's a starting point:

*"Thank you for trusting me. I can see you're about to tell me something difficult – I'm here to listen and help, not judge. I want to make sure you're safe, but need you to know that by law I'm required to report to [specific person or entity] if you tell me anything about [mandatory reporting issues]. That said, I will only speak with the people I need to speak with, and we can talk about who those people are. If that is not what you want, let's talk about who else in your life you can go to for help right now."*

## **03** Talk with students about online safety.

We heard from kids that [our video](#) felt like it belonged in the classroom – bring it there! To really understand how sextortion happens, the severe consequences and barriers to disclosure, [check out our sextortion report and infographic](#). Make sure that you explain mandatory reporting laws in your state so that when a student shares their experiences they are not surprised by the outcomes.

**PROTIP:** Talk with other educators about online safety too. You've just learned a lot of information that would be valuable for other teachers to understand. Plus, the more unified responses are across all educators, the less confused students will be and the more confident you'll be in your decisions.

## **04** Be there unconditionally.

Kids experiencing sextortion are so scared of getting in trouble. They're worried about being shamed, that they'll get suspended from school, judged by friends or in trouble with the police. These fears can even be suggested by the abuser to maintain control over them, and sadly these things do happen. These fears keep kids silent, and that has led to terrible tragedies. Even if you think they know you'll support them, having these conversations can make a big difference in them sharing their experiences with you when something feels off or goes wrong.

# YOUR NEXT STEPS

LEARN MORE AND TALK ABOUT IT.

## **05** Bring curriculum to the classroom.

Find the one that is right for your class from one of the many options below:

**Love146** works on preventing trafficking and sextortion through education. [Find their resources here.](#)

**Canadian Centre for Child Protection** released a sextortion PSA and developed accompanying lesson plans. [Learn more about their work.](#)

**NetSmartz** teaches kids how to stay safe online and be good digital citizens. [Get their curriculum.](#)

**Audrie & Daisy** focuses on sexual assault that was documented and shared. [Watch the powerful documentary and review their lesson plans.](#)

## **06** Keep up with tech trends.

Talk with students about apps and platforms they are engaging with. Ask them what's cool or new, and why they like it. The more common these conversations are when there is no abuse happening, the easier it will be to understand when something is wrong, and the easier it will be for students to share what's happening.

## **07** Tell students: don't forward pics.

You can report any nude or semi-nude images to law enforcement or by contacting [CyberTipline](#). Don't forget to tell your students not to forward these images. These may be considered child pornography, and there can be both [legal and personal consequences](#) if they do.

“REACHING OUT IS THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO. THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU WANT WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU, THEY MAY BE ANGRY AT FIRST, BUT IN THE END, THEY WILL NOT LOVE YOU ANY LESS... THEY MIGHT EVEN GAIN SOME RESPECT FOR YOUR COURAGE.

- Female, 18, sextortion survivor

# YOUR NEXT STEPS

LEARN MORE AND TALK ABOUT IT.

## 08 Understand the issue.

Learning about how sextortion happens and what to do to protect your students is an important step in preventing it from happening in the first place.

## 09 Share the cat video.

Did [this video](#) make you laugh, but also teach you about something serious? Share it with your students and with your colleagues so they can be as informed as you are about what sextortion is and how it happens.

## 10 Raise awareness.

Consider hosting an anti-bullying assembly at your school, especially one that focuses on help seeking behavior and healthy and unhealthy relationships. Sextortion often results in bullying, and many of the same tactics used to address bullying can be used to address sextortion.

